

MARVEL
REMEMBERS



JOHN
ROMITA

MARVEL 1

ERICA SCHULTZ
EDGAR SALAZAR
ARIF PRIANTO

WHAT IF...? DARK

MOONKNIGHT

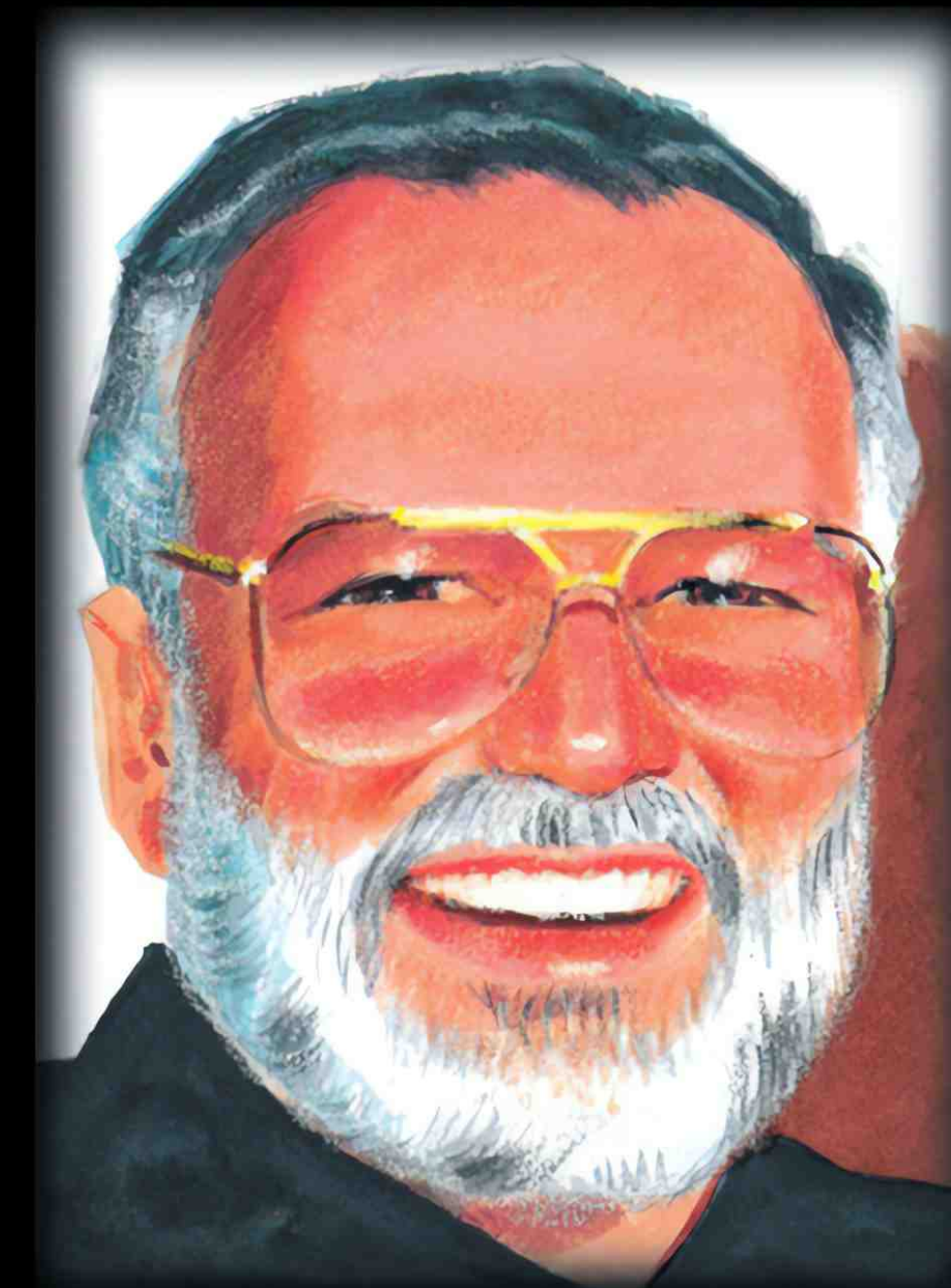


Salazar
arif



John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.



"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character. John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

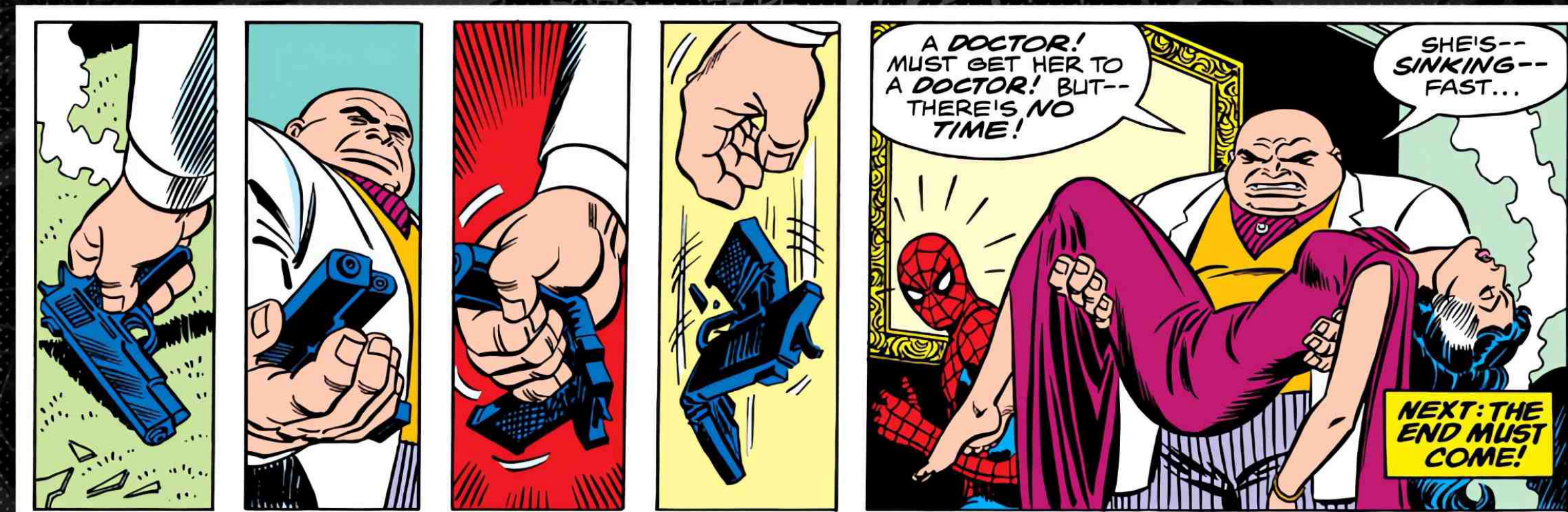
"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man* #39, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, 'laddy John Romita.'"

— NICK LOWE



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #21, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.



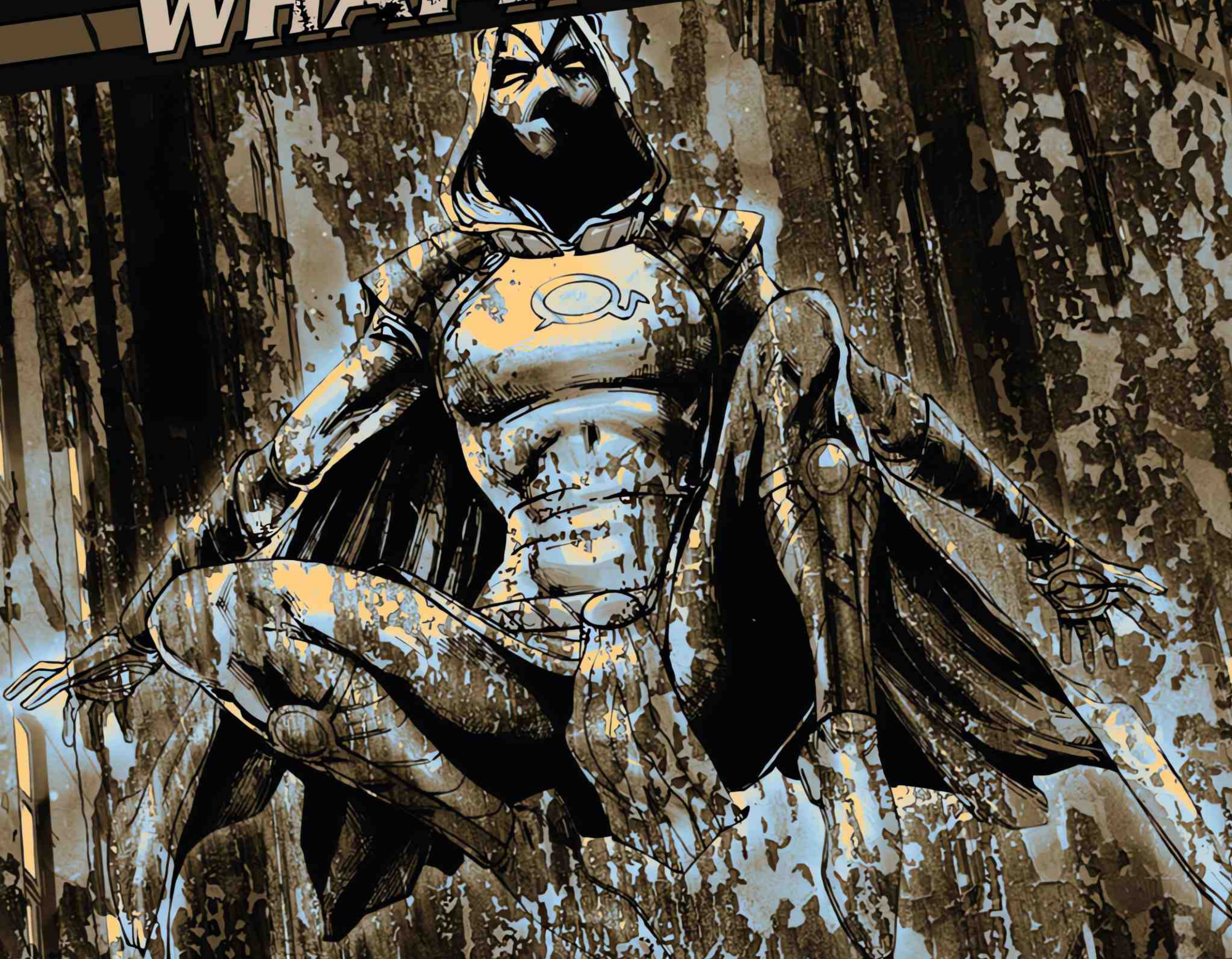
"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

The Marvel Universe is filled with infinite possibilities. One small choice can change the course of history and set the universe on any number of different paths. What if those choices, those moments, turned the situation...dark?

WHAT IF...? DARK



MOON KNIGHT

Mercenary **MARC SPECTOR** died and was reborn in the shadow of **KHONSHU**, the Egyptian god of the moon. Spector became **MOON KNIGHT**, the Fist of Khonshu, to fight evil. Marc's girlfriend, **MARLENE ALRAUNE**, was kidnapped by his old enemy **RAUL BUSHMAN**. Marc pursued the pair to the nation of Burunda, where a fight for survival rages...

*Note: The events of this story deviate from **MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT #3**.

ERICA SCHULTZ
WRITER

EDGAR SALAZAR
ARTIST

ARIF PRIANTO
COLORIST

VC's **CORY PETIT**
LETTERER

EDGAR SALAZAR & ARIF PRIANTO
COVER ARTISTS

CORY SMITH & RACHELLE ROSENBERG; DAVID MACK
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

STACIE ZUCKER
PRODUCTION DESIGN

MARTIN BIRD
EDITOR

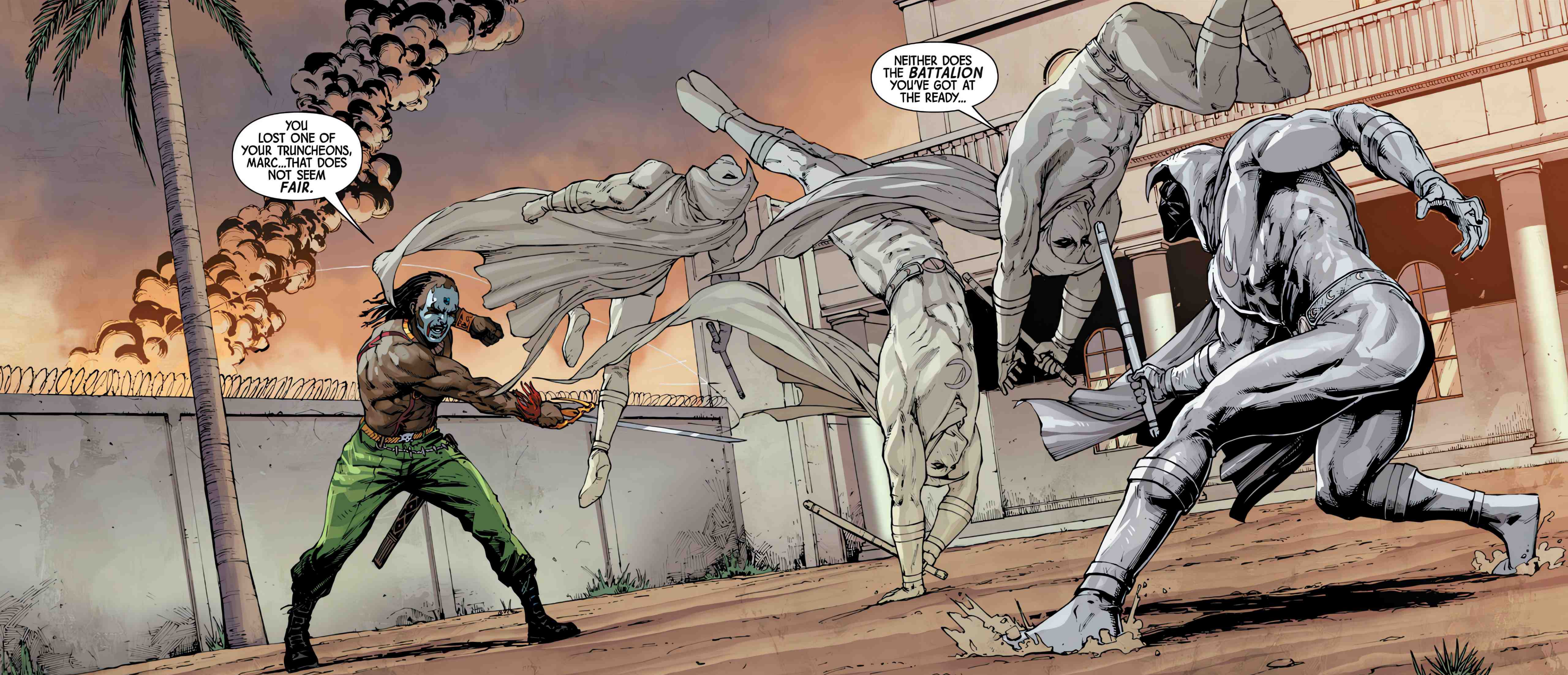
TOM BREVOORT
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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THE NATION OF BURUNDA.





YOU
LOST ONE OF
YOUR TRUNCHEONS,
MARC...THAT DOES
NOT SEEM
FAIR.

NEITHER DOES
THE *BATTALION*
YOU'VE GOT AT
THE READY...



...BUT I
THINK I CAN
MANAGE.

KA-
CHAK



MY MEN HAVE ORDERS
TO STAND DOWN,
SPECTOR.

THIS IS JUST
BETWEEN
US.



GNNF!



GAH!

SLISH



FIRST
BLOOD...
IT ALWAYS
TASTES BEST.



DOESN'T
MATTER WHO
GETS THE FIRST
CUT...

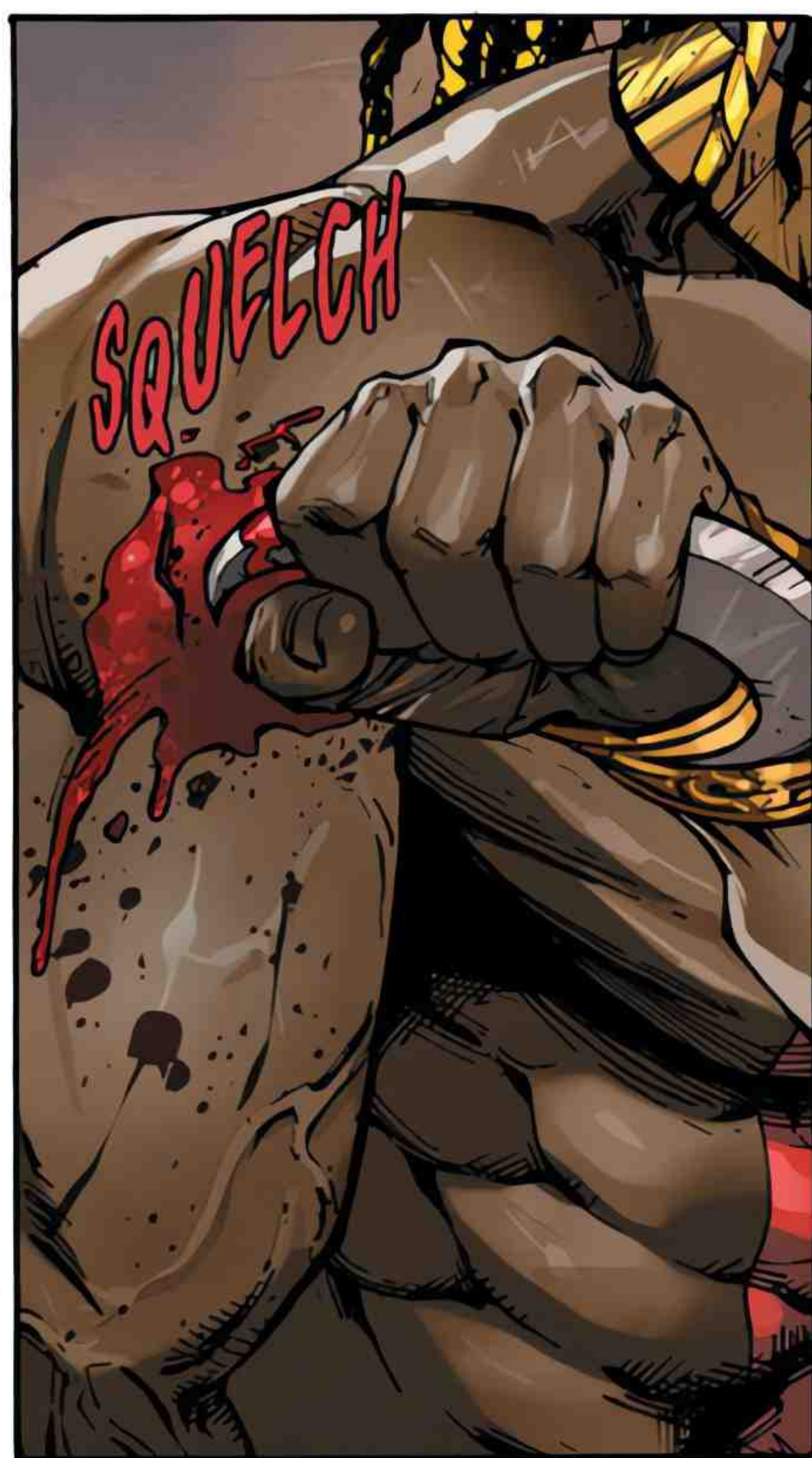


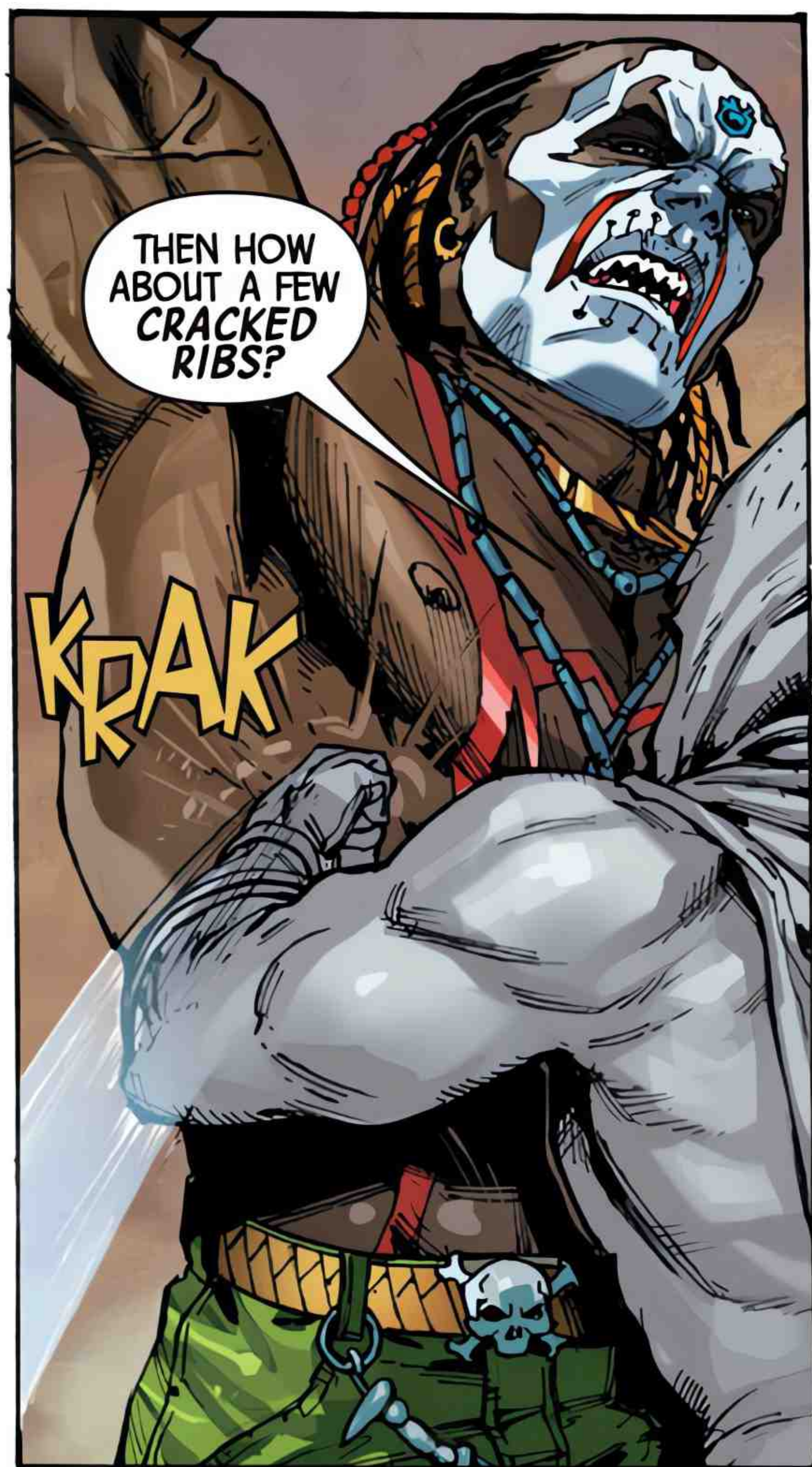
...BUT WHO'S LEFT
STANDING.

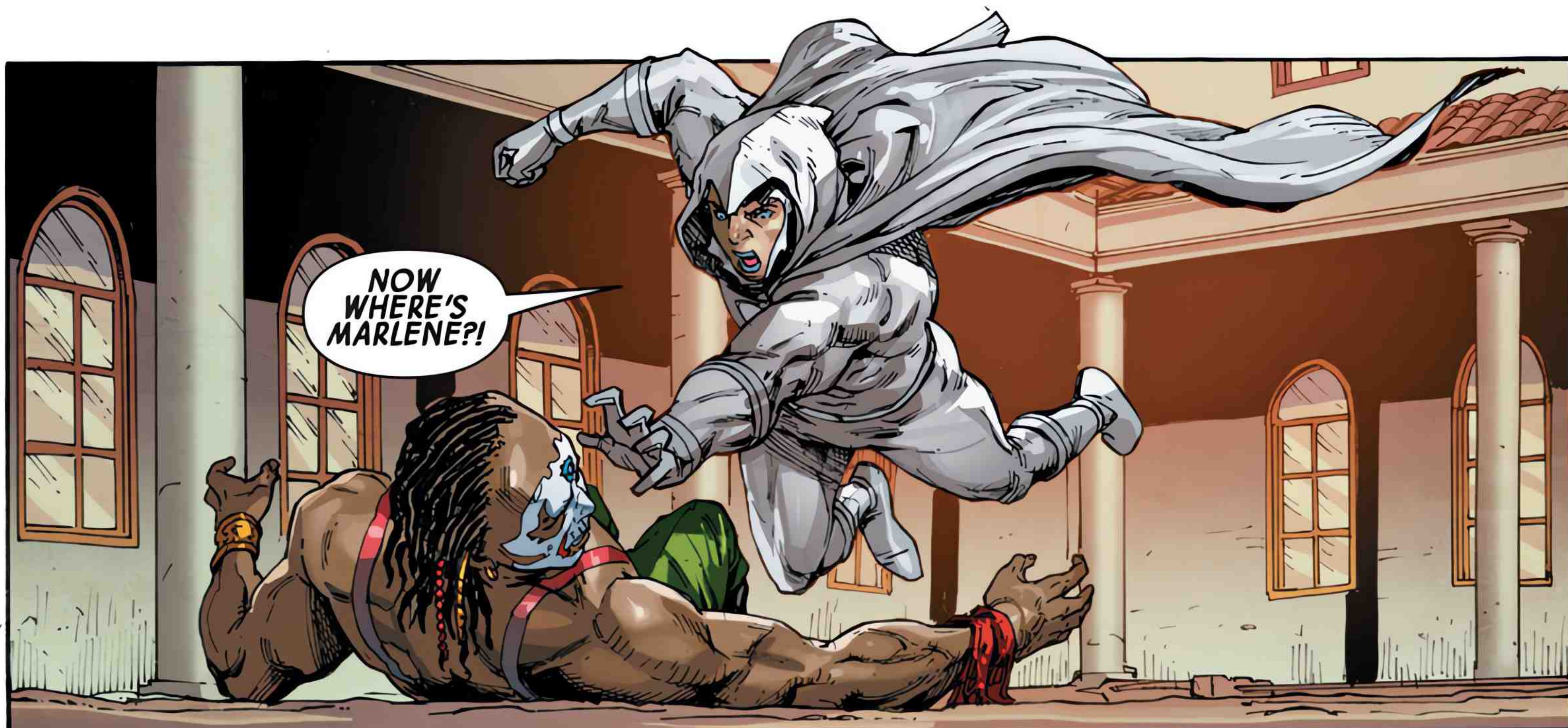
WHACK

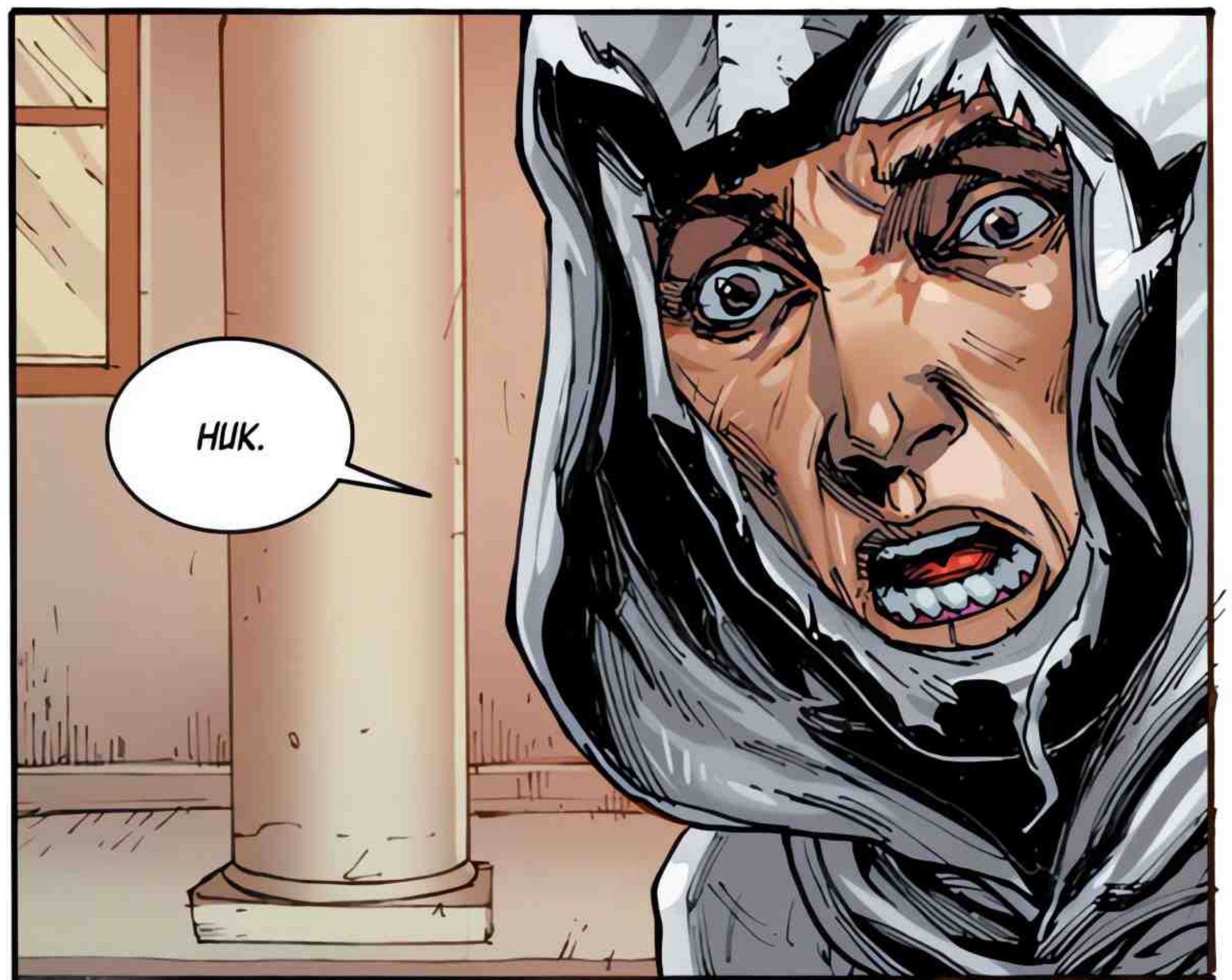


UGH...









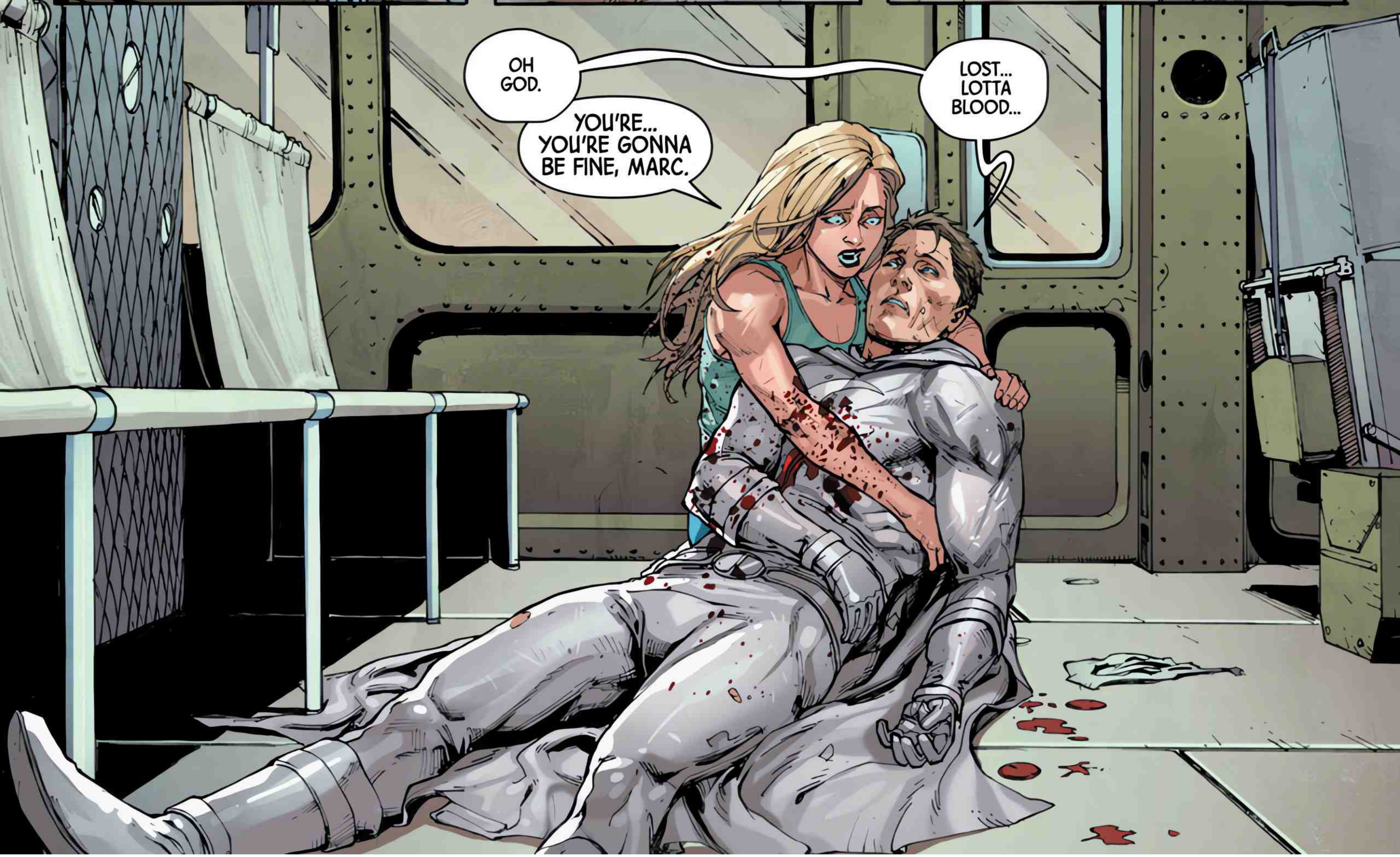
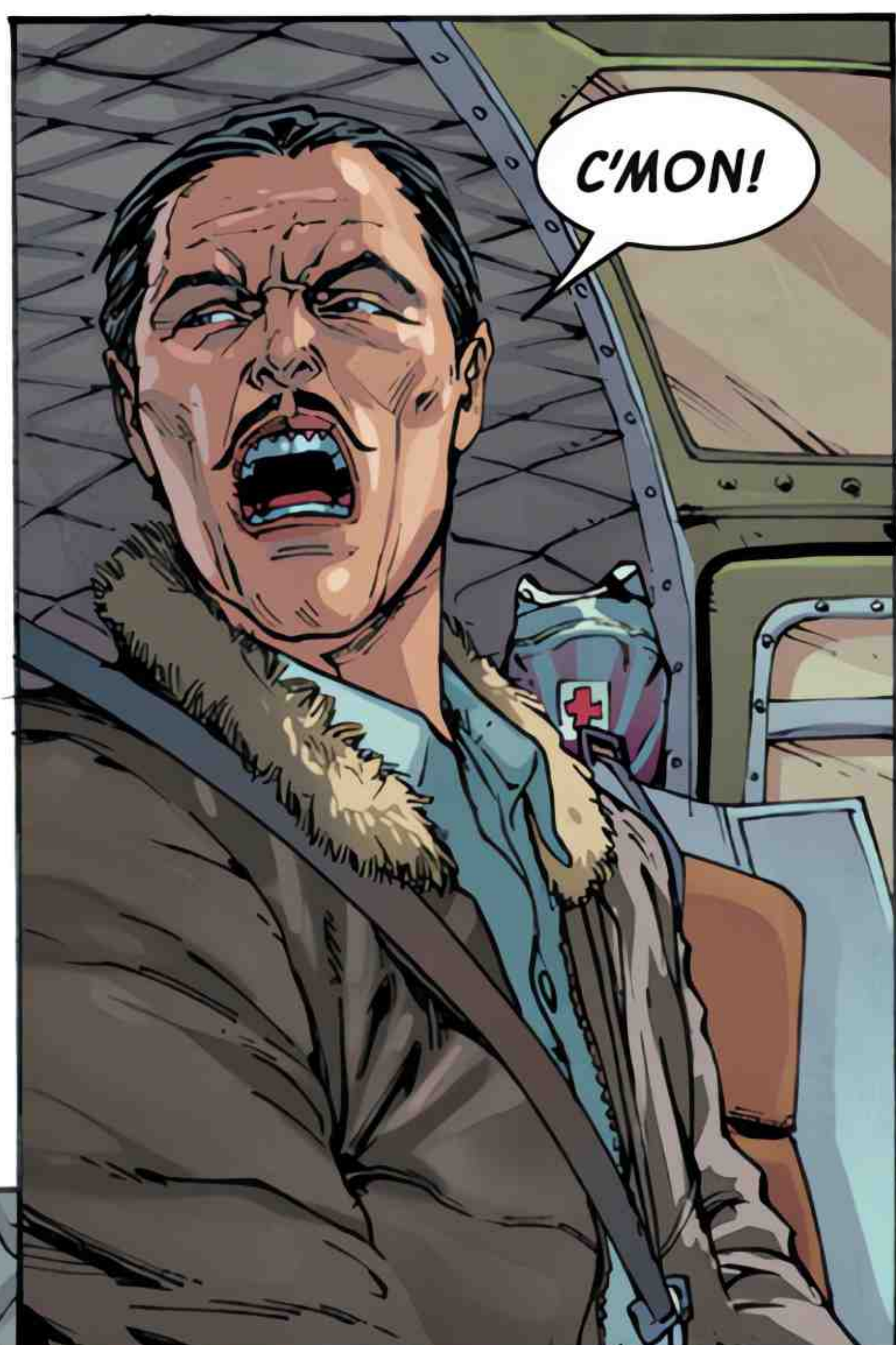
"IN ONE WORLD,
MARC SPECTOR--MY
AVATAR--DEFEATED
RAUL BUSHMAN...

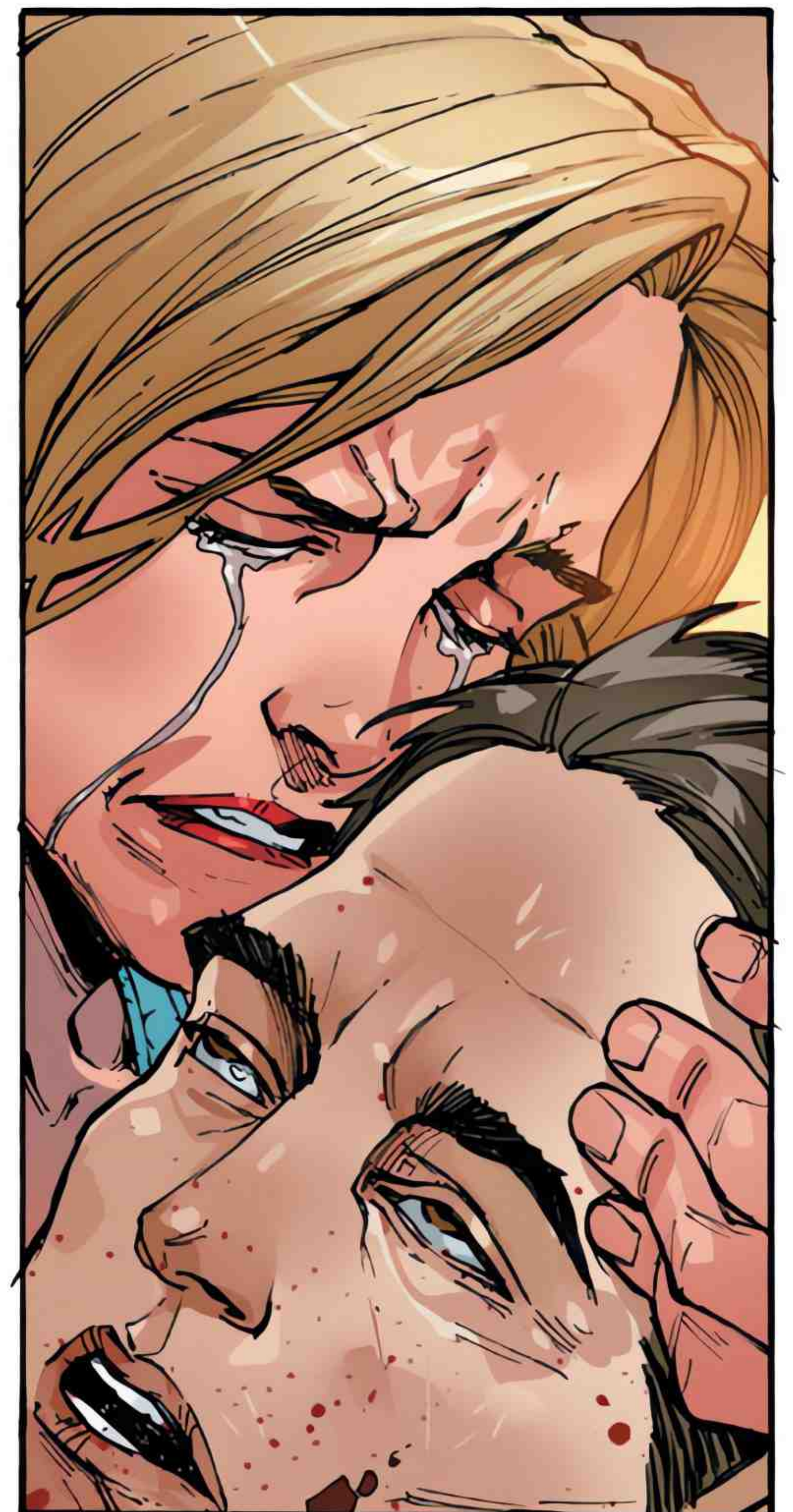
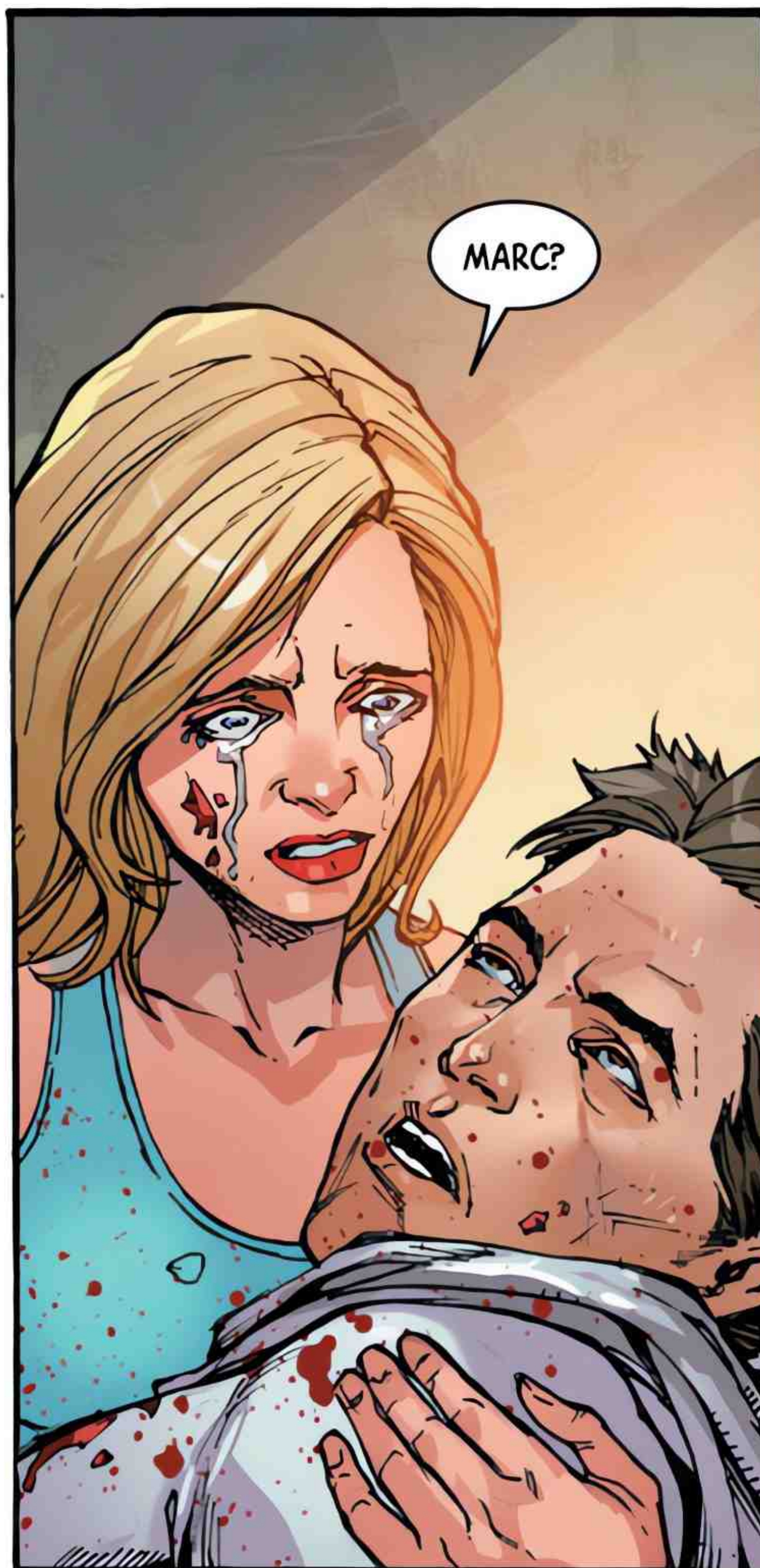
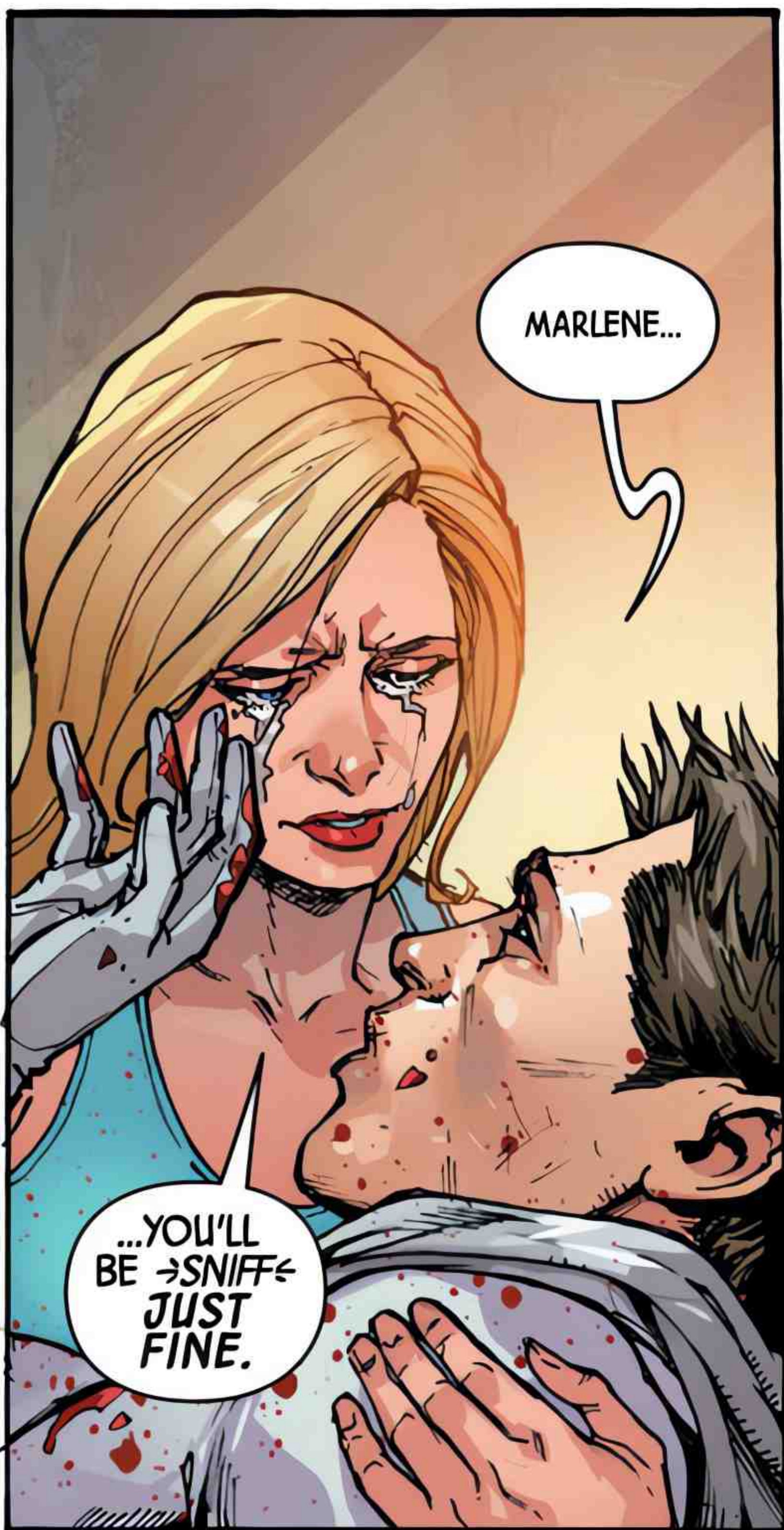
"...AND HE AND MARLENE
ALRAUNE LEFT BURUNDA
WITH THE HELP OF
JEAN-PAUL DUCHAMP.

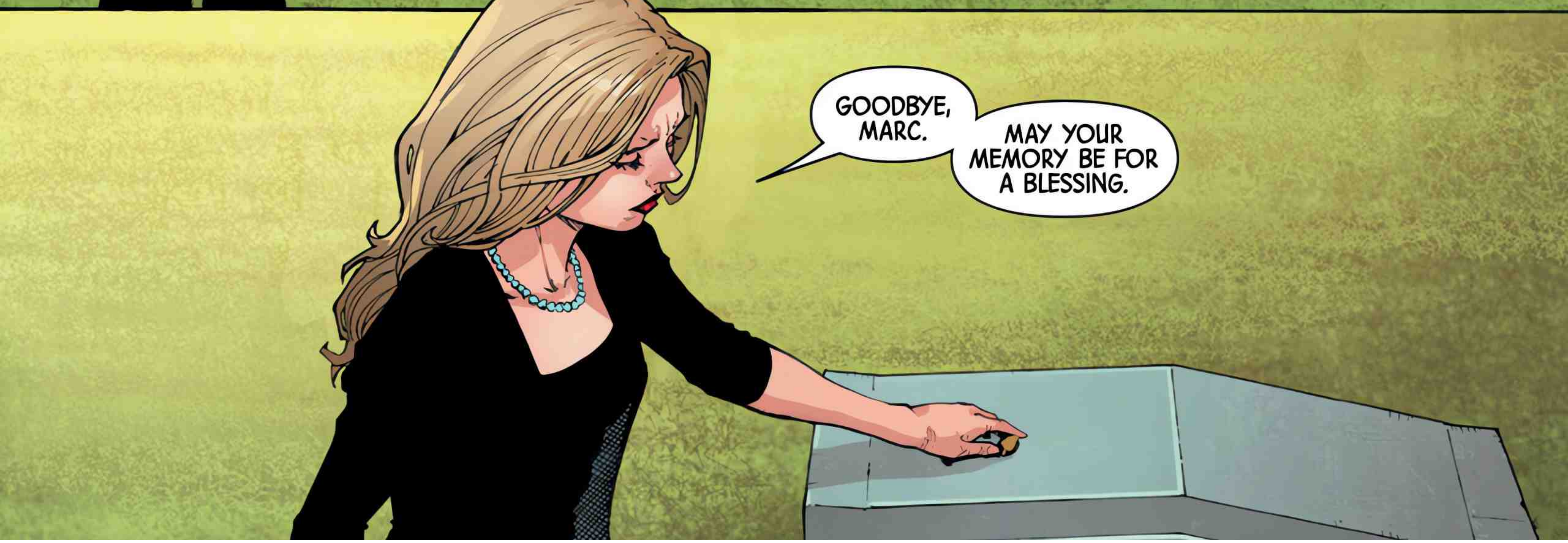
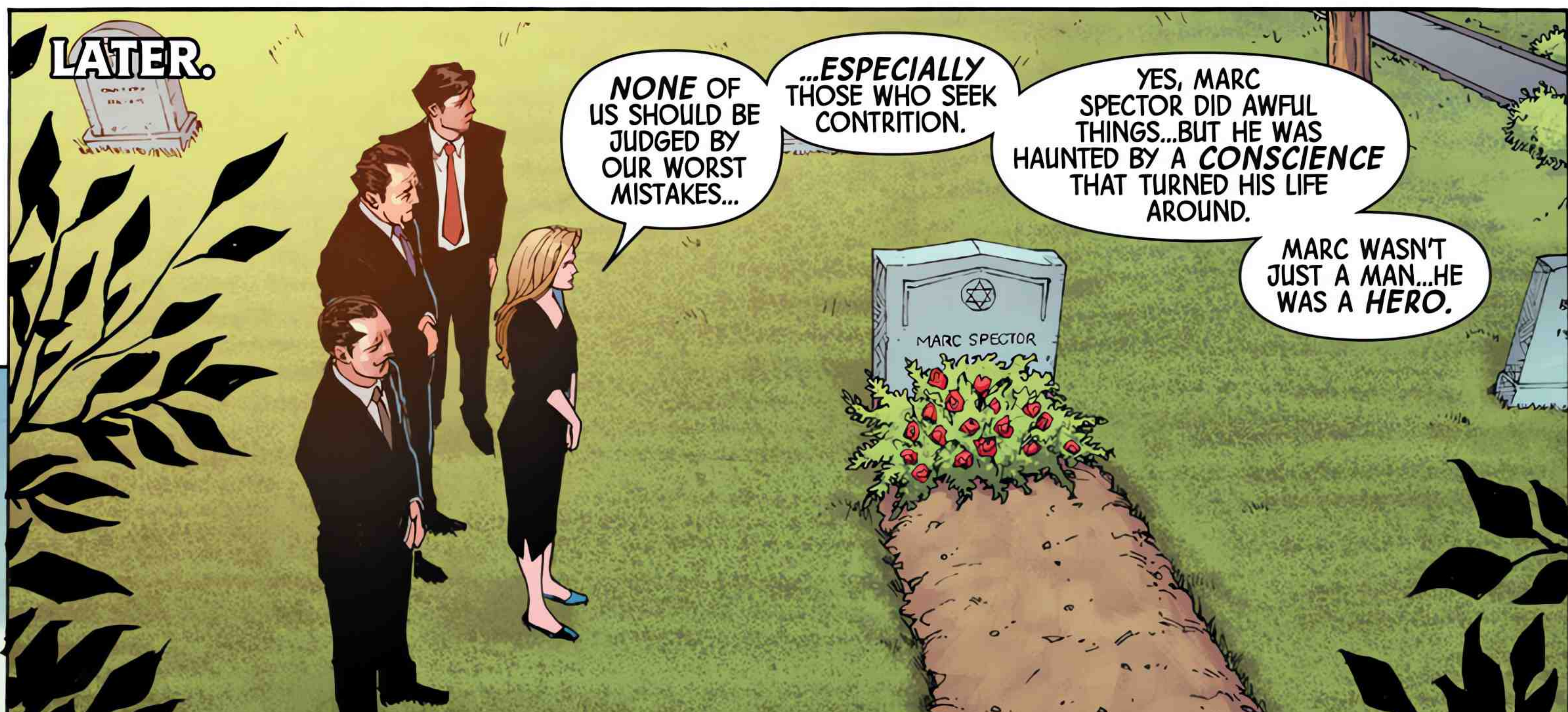
"BUT IN THIS WORLD, THE
CONFLICT CAME TO A VERY
DIFFERENT CONCLUSION."

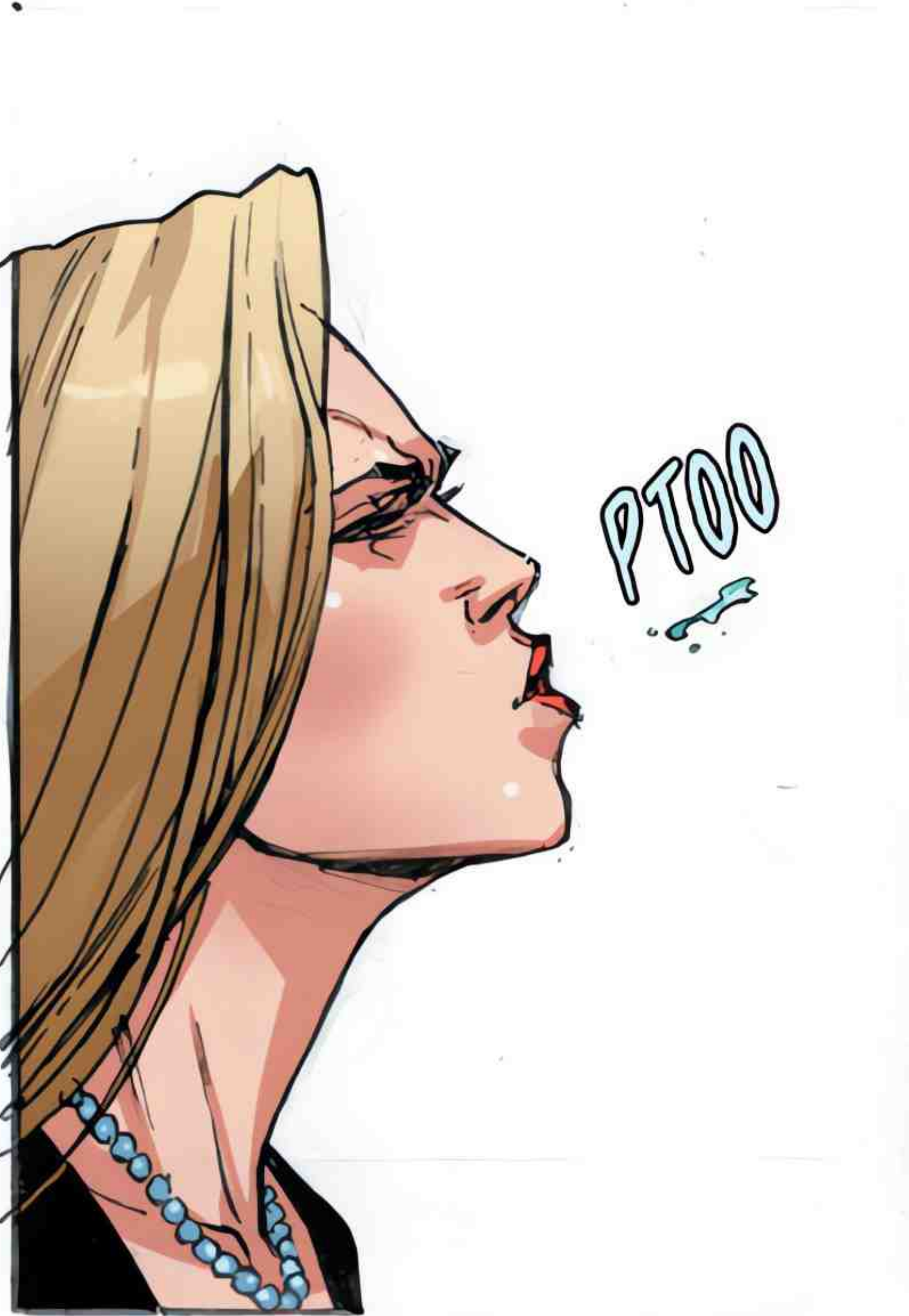
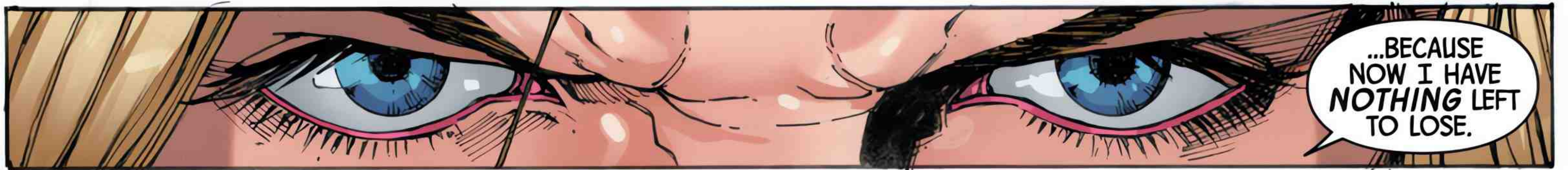
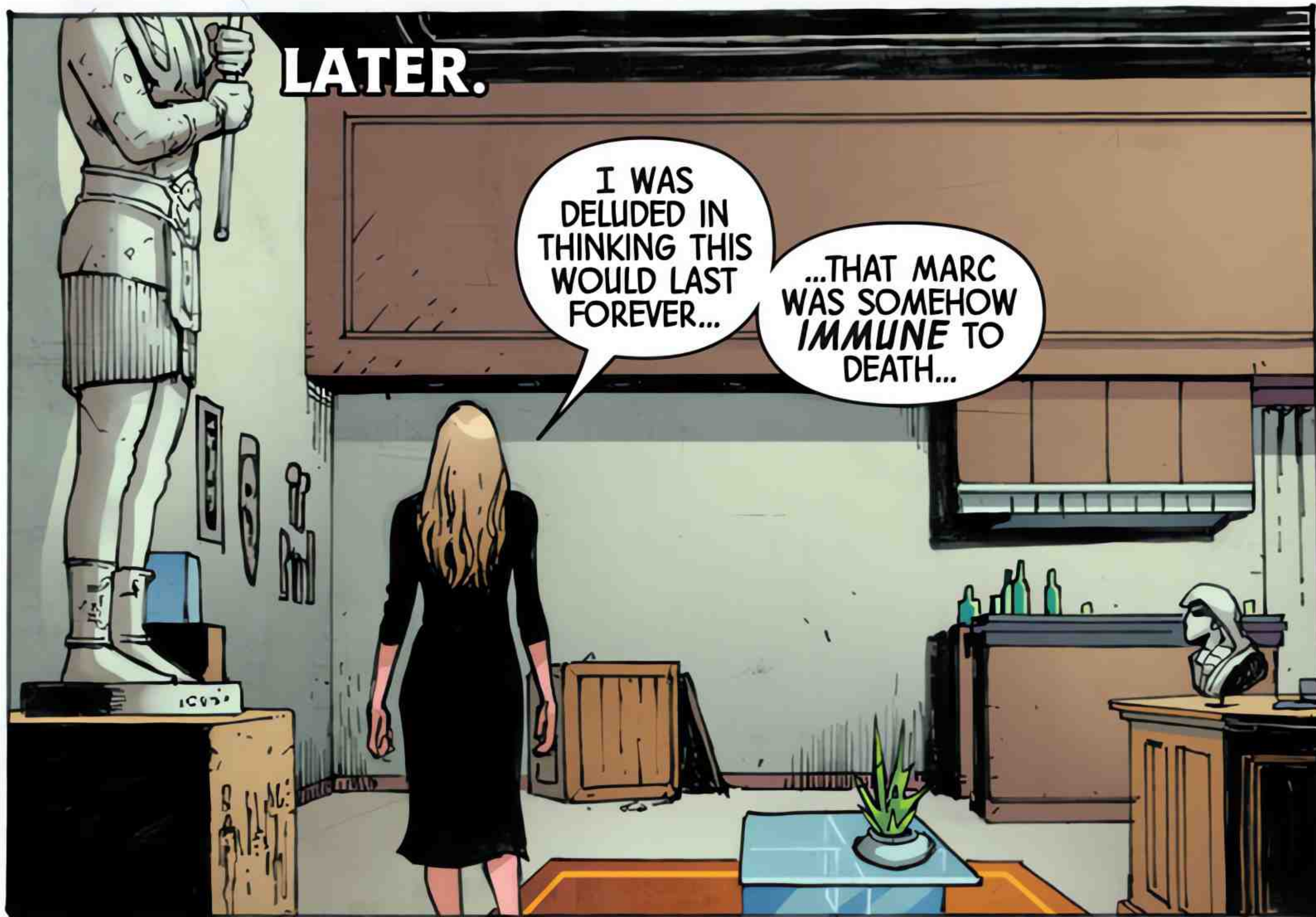
NO!













→SOB←
WHY...?

WHY,
MARC...?



YOU ARE
HURTING, MY
CHILD.

WHO SAID
THAT?



THAT GLOW--
IT FEELS LIKE...THE
SUN ON A
SUMMER DAY...

YOU HAVE
DESCENDED INTO
DARKNESS...



IT'S...
COMFORTING...

...COME AND
BATHE IN THE
GLORY OF MY
LIGHT.

WHO...
WHO ARE
YOU?



I AM
RA...

...AND I
PROVIDE LIGHT
TO THOSE WHO
CANNOT SEE
THEIR WAY.

BUT WHY
WOULD YOU
HELP ME?

I SEE
A GREAT
LIGHT IN YOU,
MARLENE
ALRAUNE.

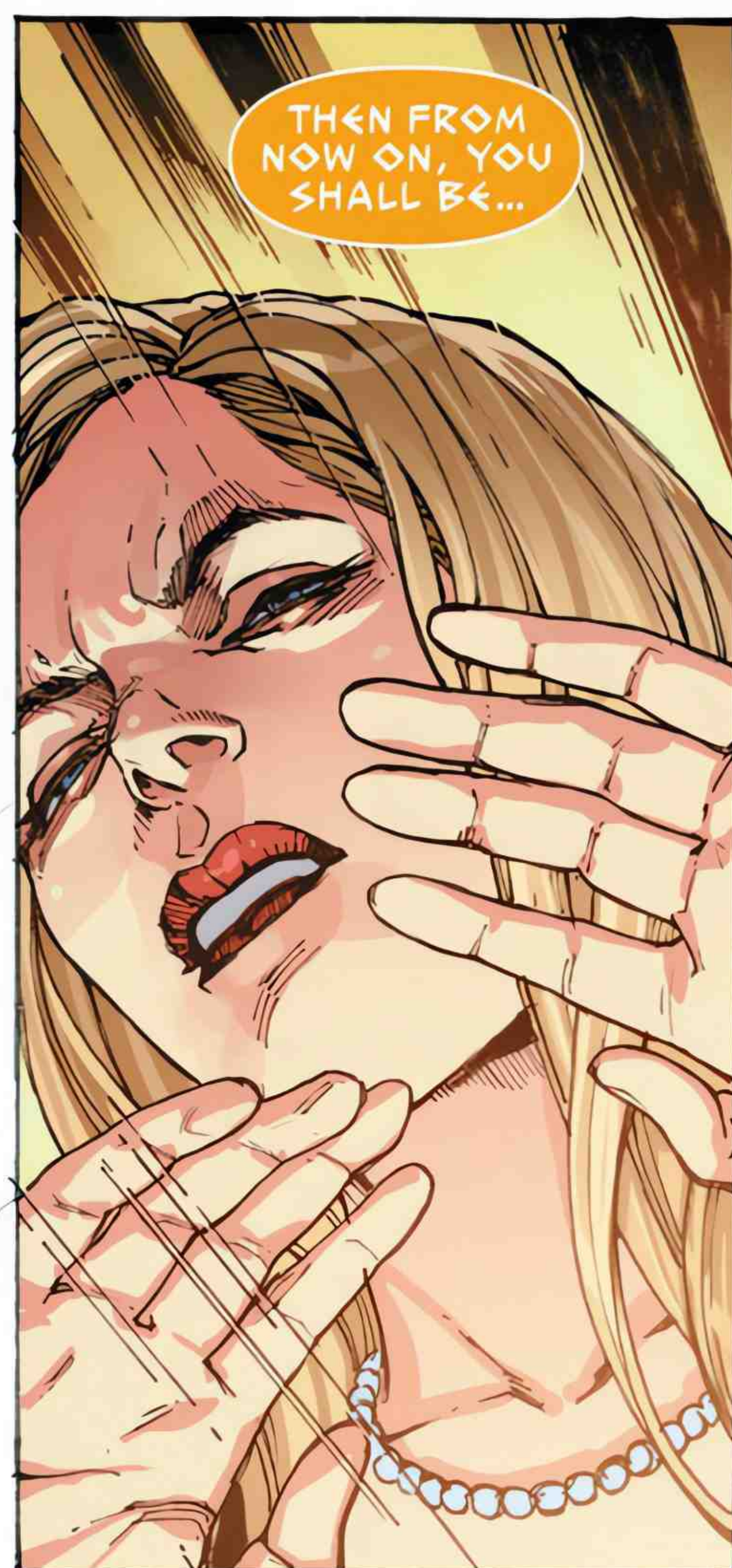


IT IS A
LIGHT THAT
CAN BRING
OTHERS OUT
OF THEIR
DARKNESS.

WOULD
YOU PLEDGE
YOURSELF TO
HELPING
OTHERS...

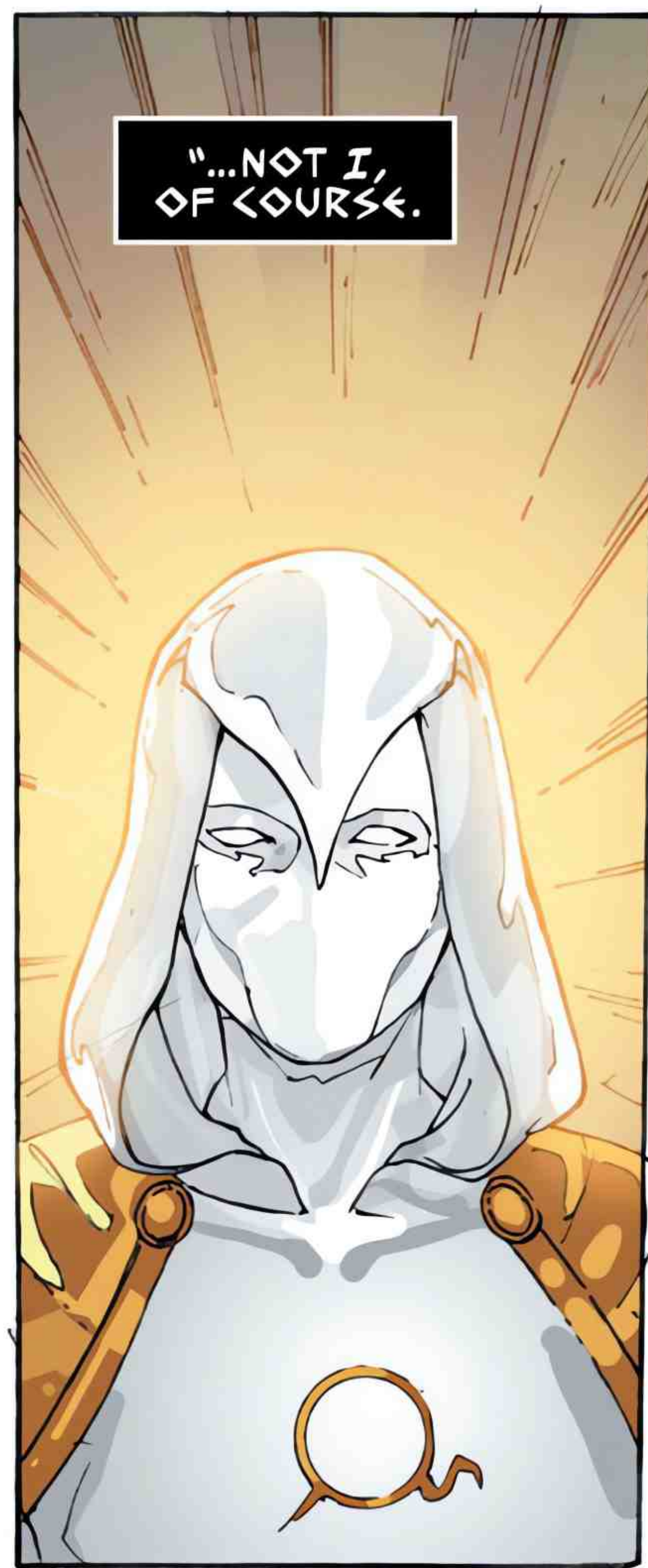
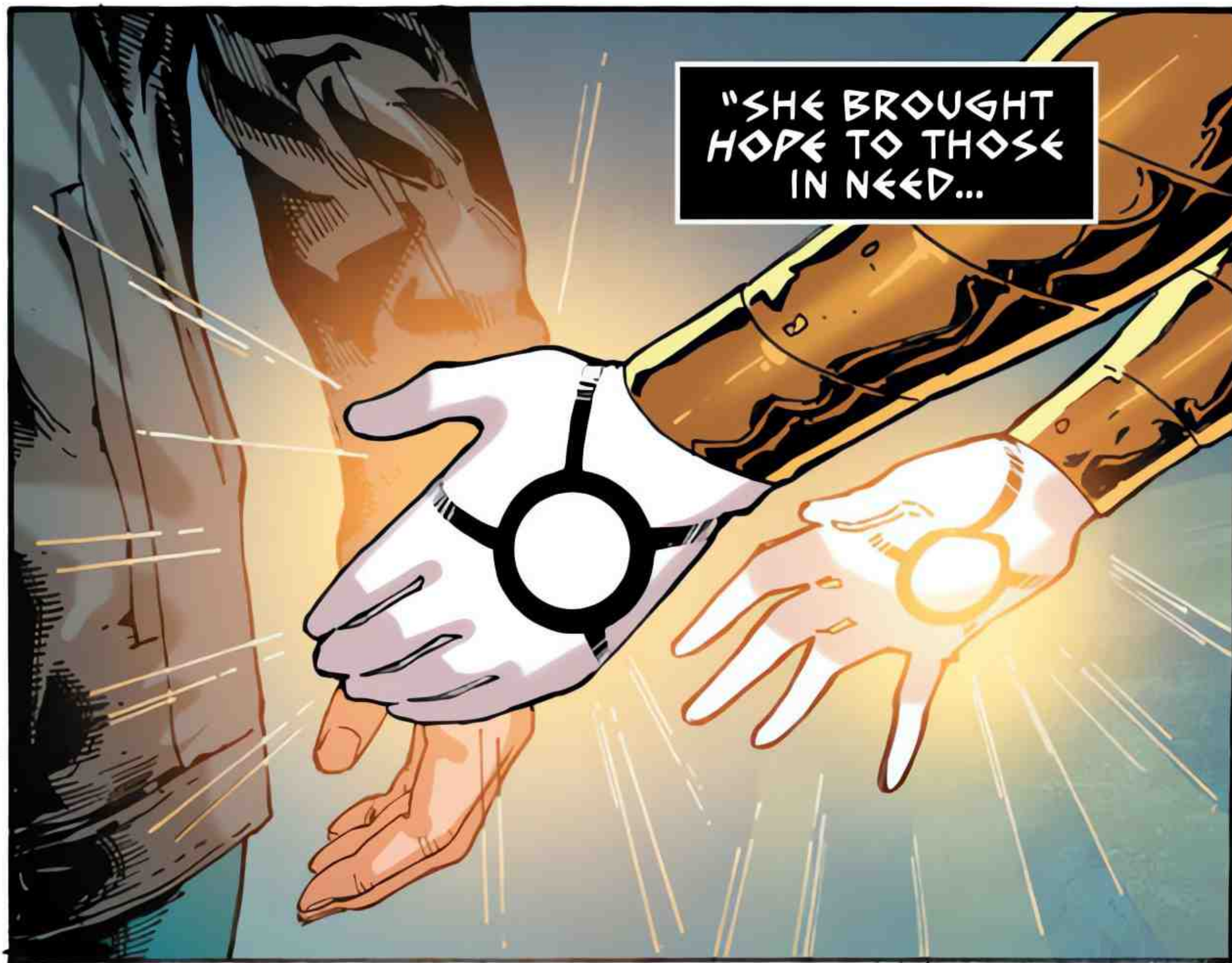
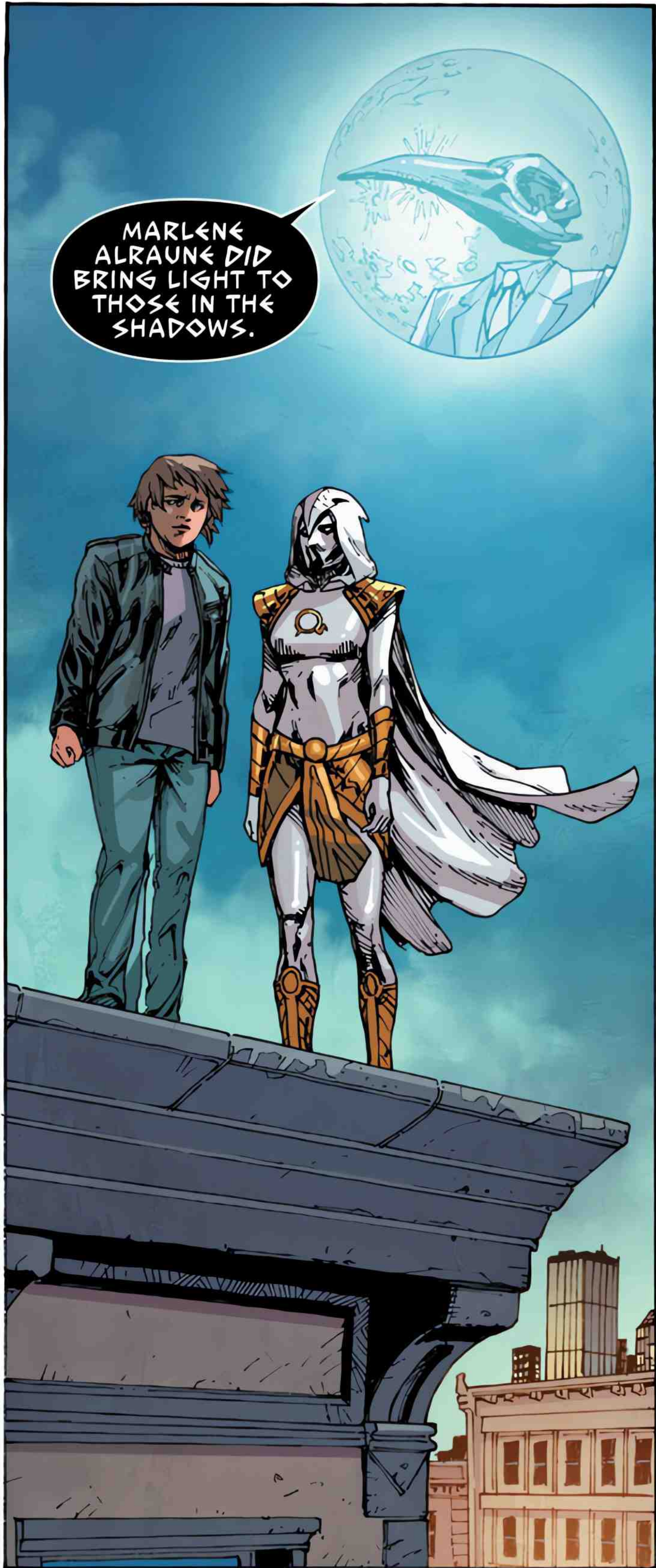
...TO
ME?

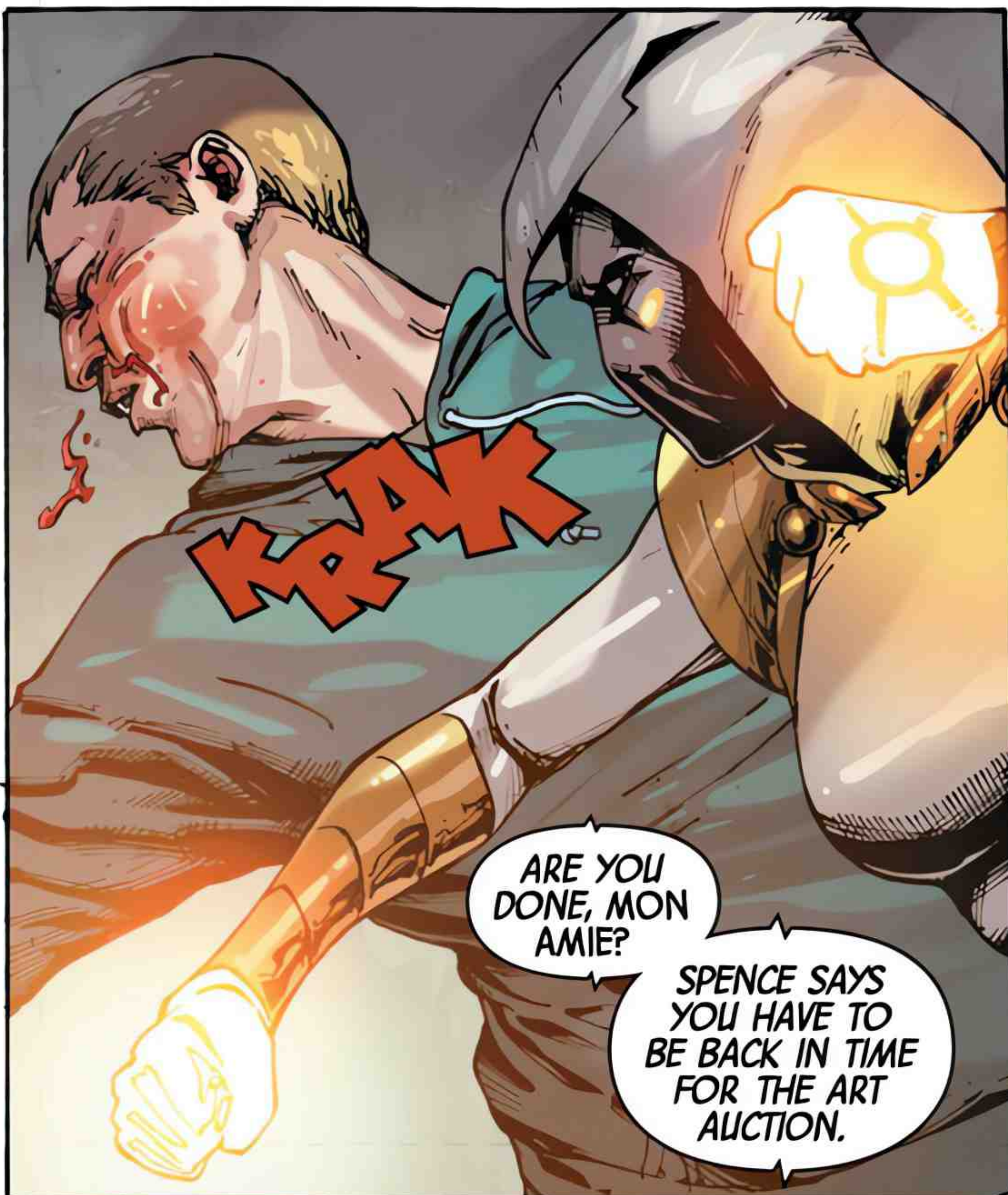
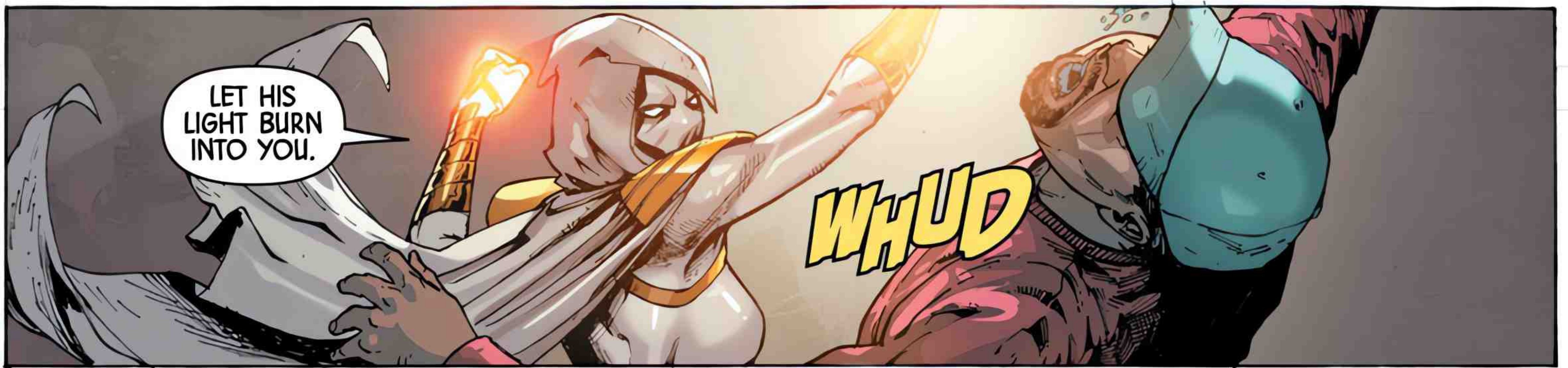
YES.



THEN FROM
NOW ON, YOU
SHALL BE...







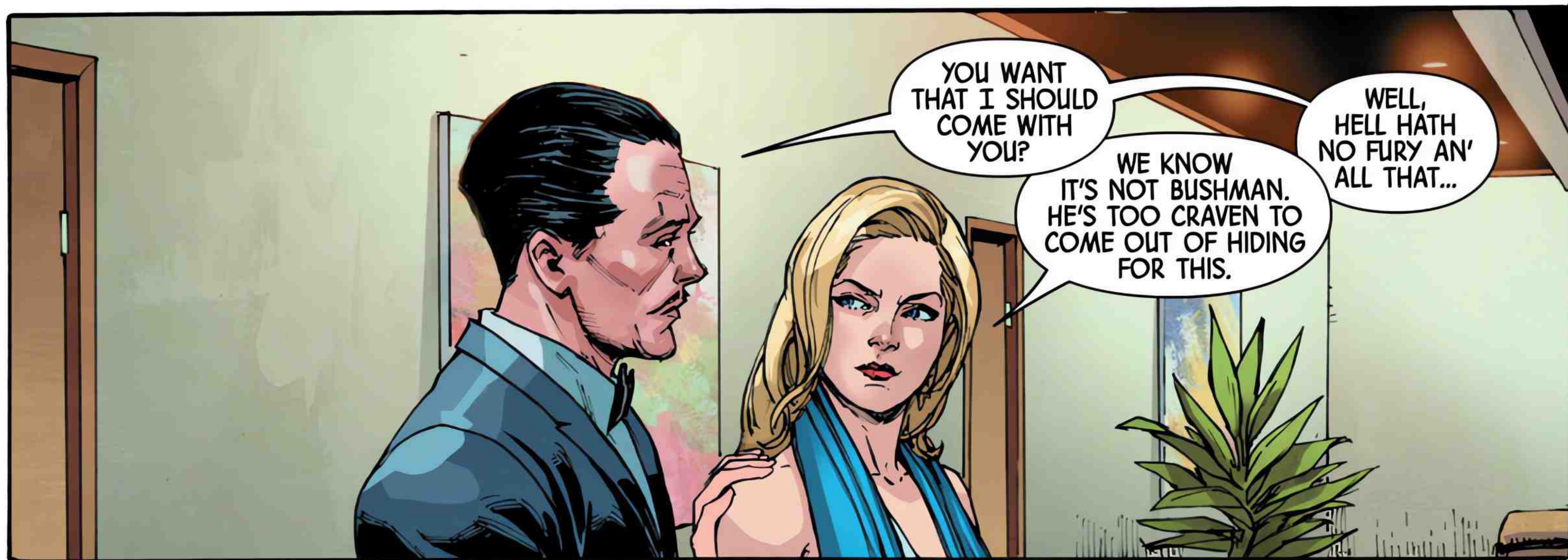
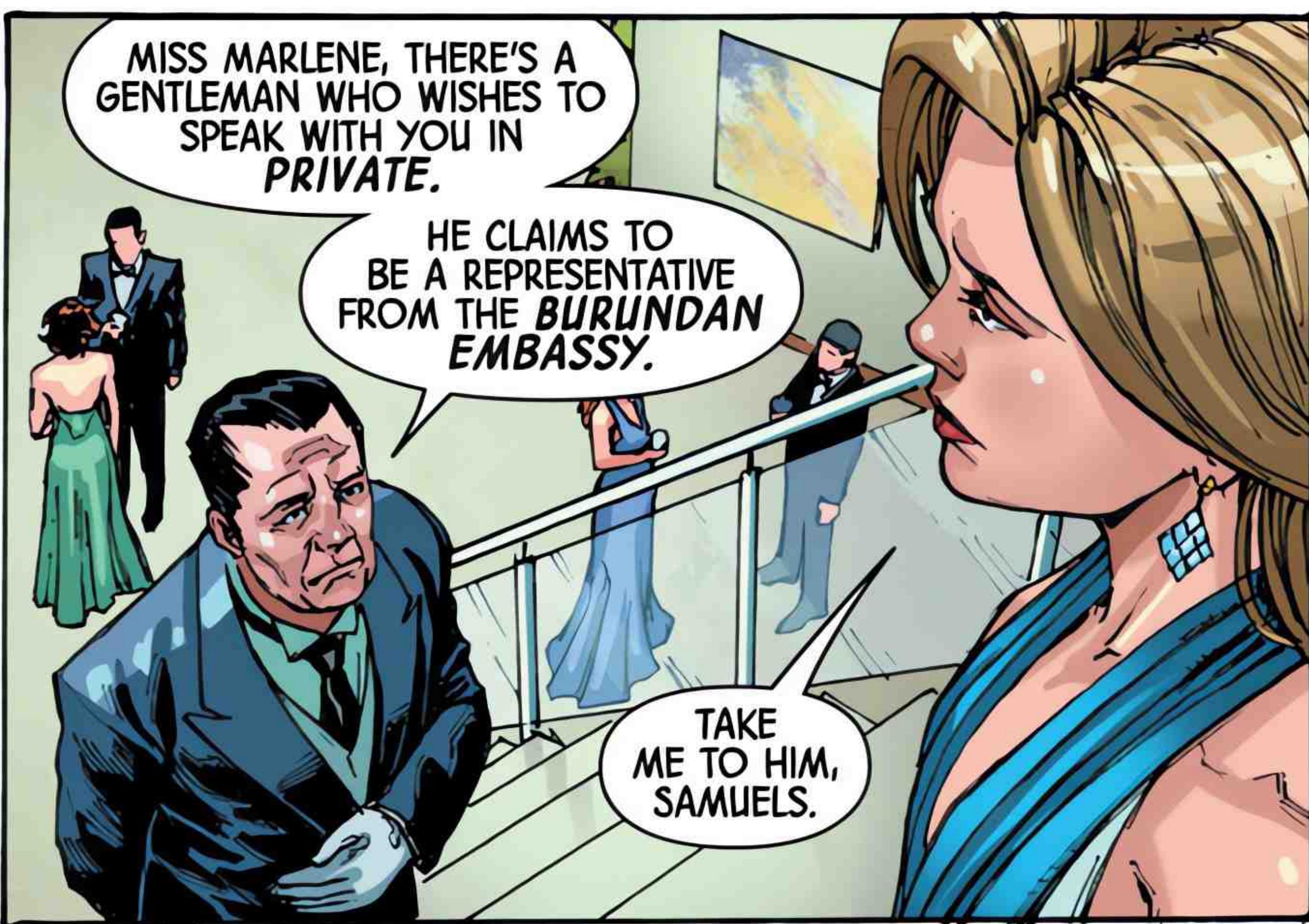
LATER.

I TAKE IT EVERYTHING IS ALL SET FOR THE AUCTION, SPENCE?

OF COURSE.

I SHOULD REALLY DO A LAP AROUND THE PARTY... SEE IF I CAN SUSS OUT THE **SERIOUS** BUYERS.

THANK YOU.





WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, LIEUTENANT?



YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

I REMEMBER YOU FROM WHEN YOUR GENERAL BUSHMAN TOOK ME CAPTIVE.*

WELL, THEN WE CAN DISPATCH WITH PLEASANTRIES, CAN'T WE, MS. ALRAUNE?



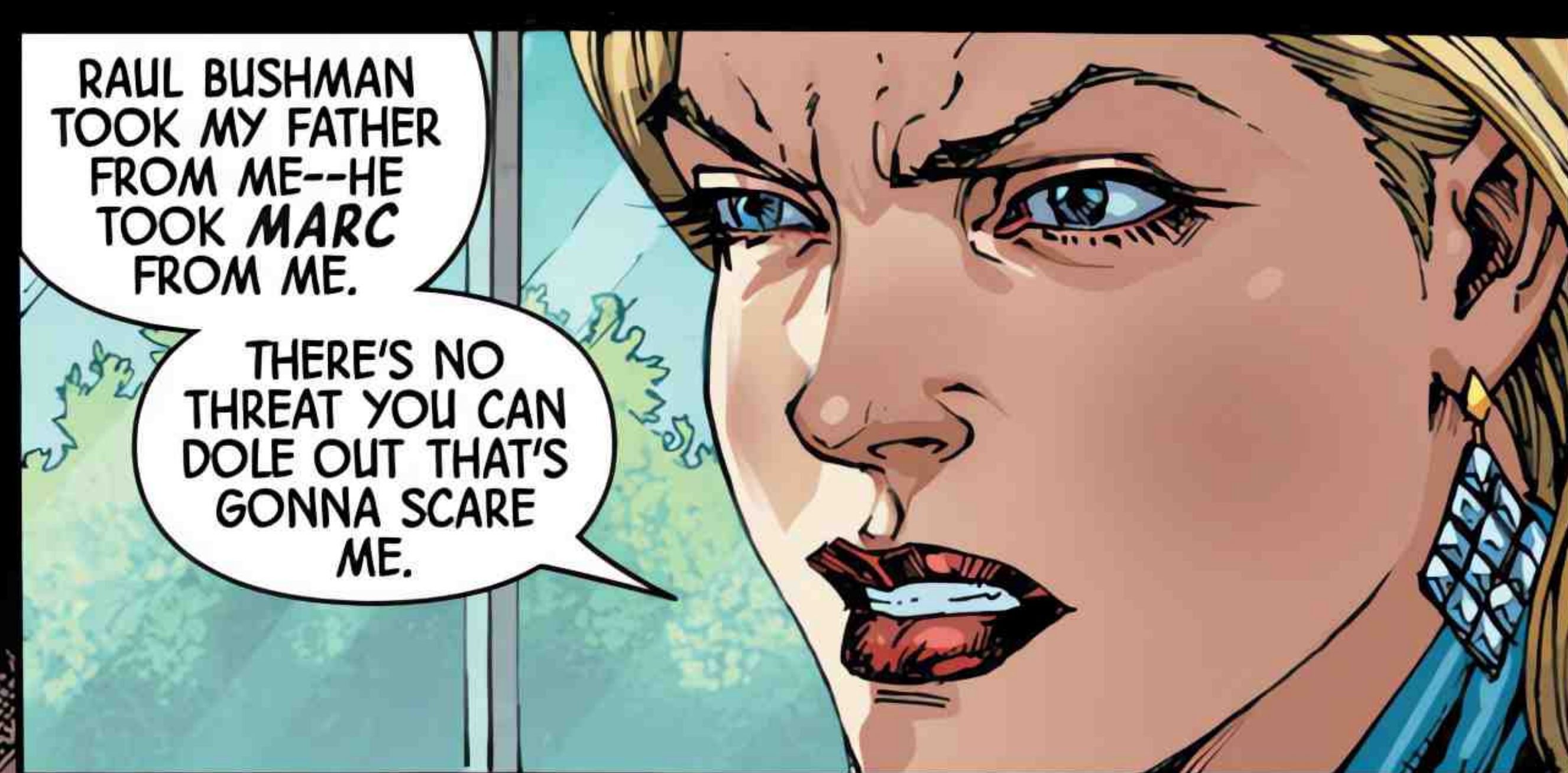
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE, YOU WILL **STOP** BUYING ARTIFACTS FROM MY COUNTRY.

YOU COLONIZERS BELIEVE YOU CAN JUST DO WHAT YOU WILL, BUT OUR **GENERAL BUSHMAN** DOES **NOT** TAKE KINDLY TO--



HE'S A **COWARD**. HE GOES FROM EMBASSY TO EMBASSY, BUT ONLY IN COUNTRIES WITH NO EXTRADITION.

I'LL DO WHAT I HAVE TO BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE THE **GUTS** TO FACE ME FOR WHAT HE'S DONE.



RAUL BUSHMAN TOOK MY FATHER FROM ME--HE TOOK **MARC** FROM ME.

THERE'S NO THREAT YOU CAN DOLE OUT THAT'S GONNA SCARE ME.

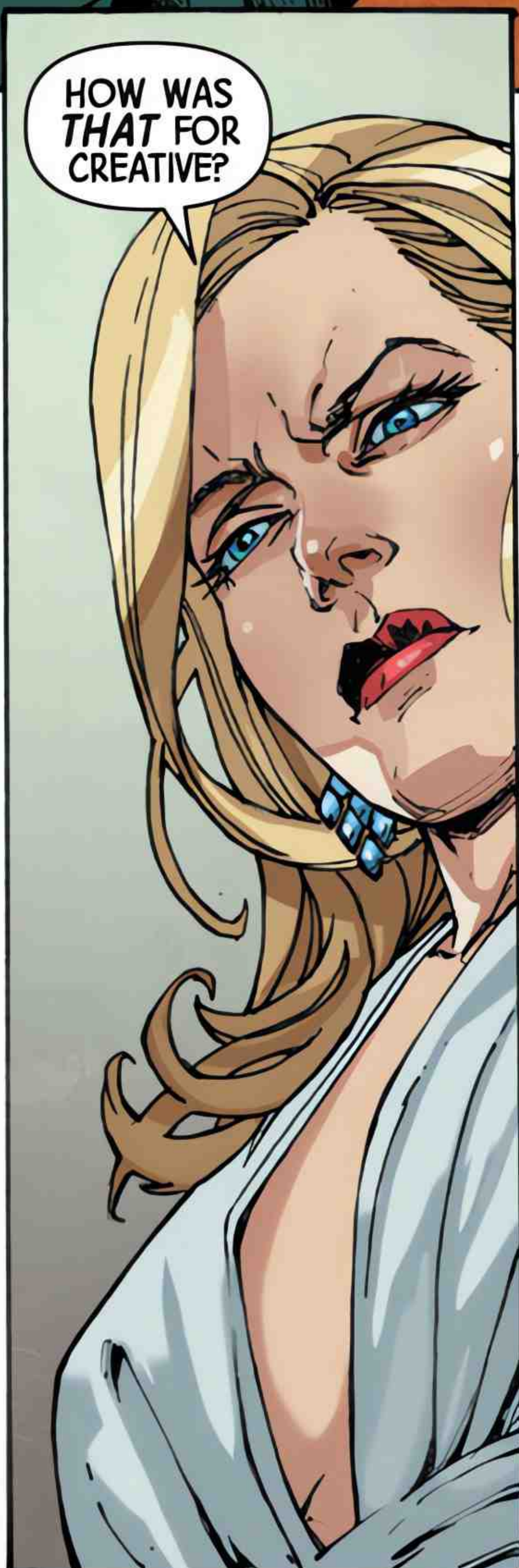
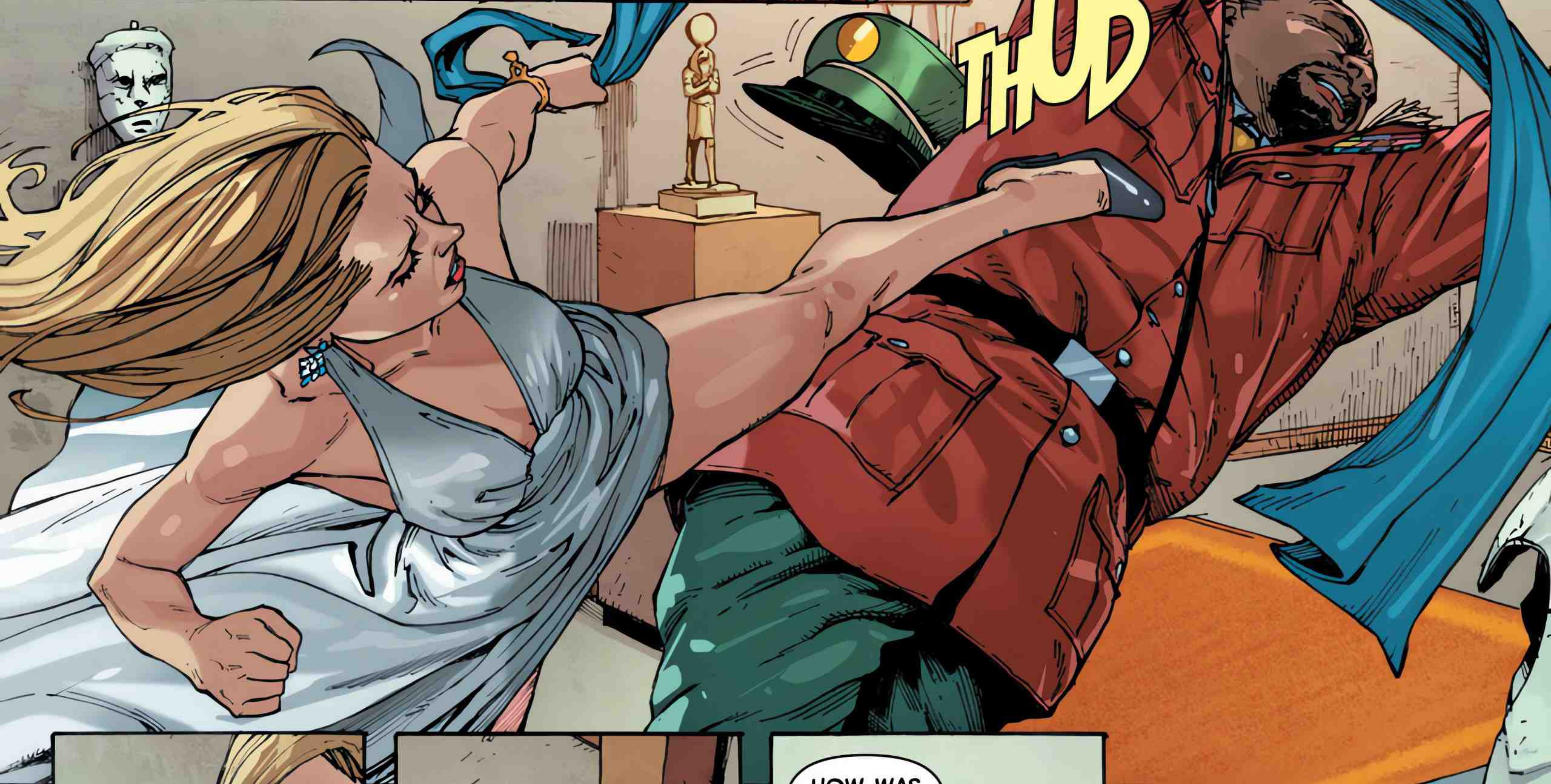
*SEE MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT #1. --MARTIN

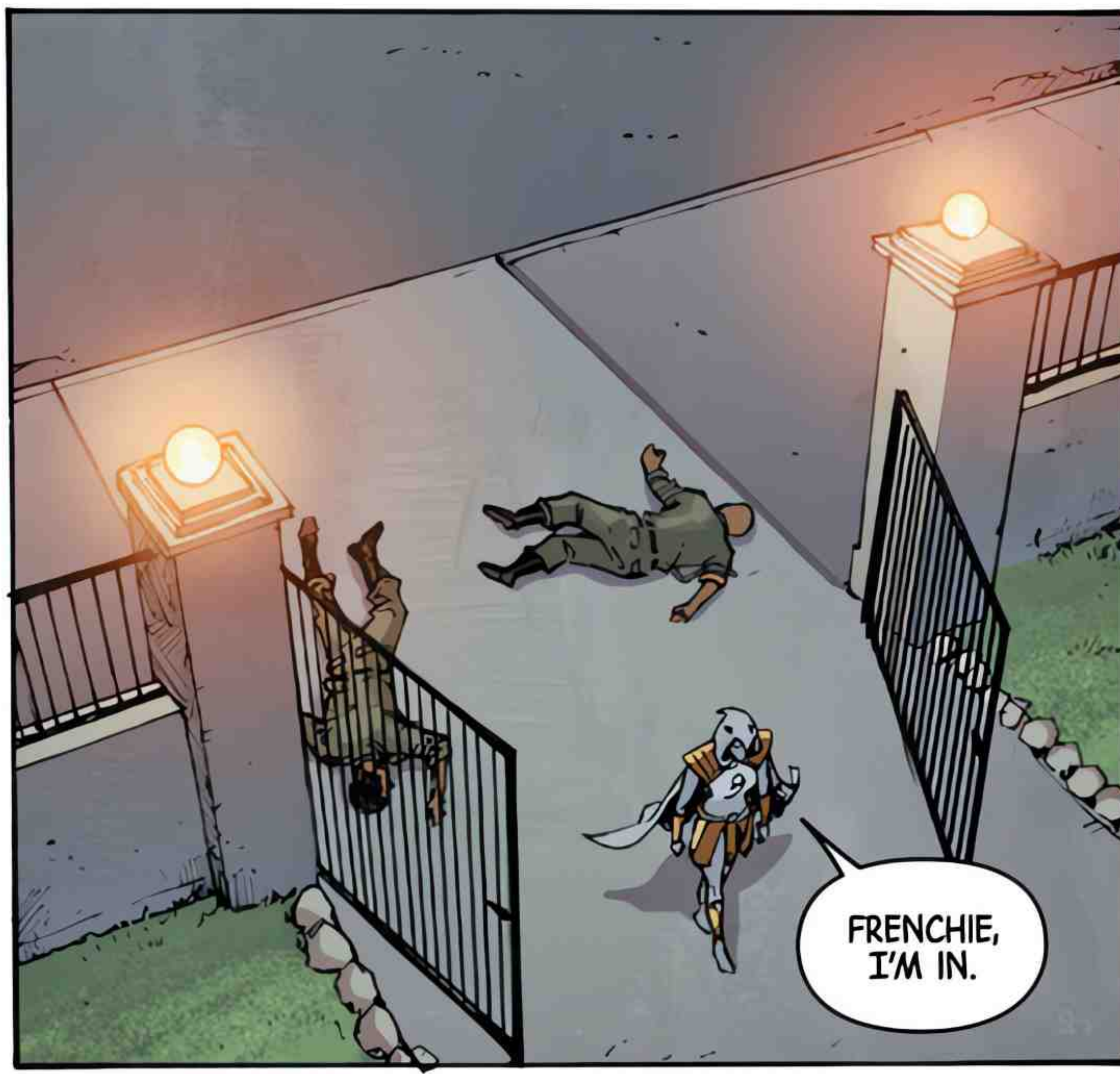


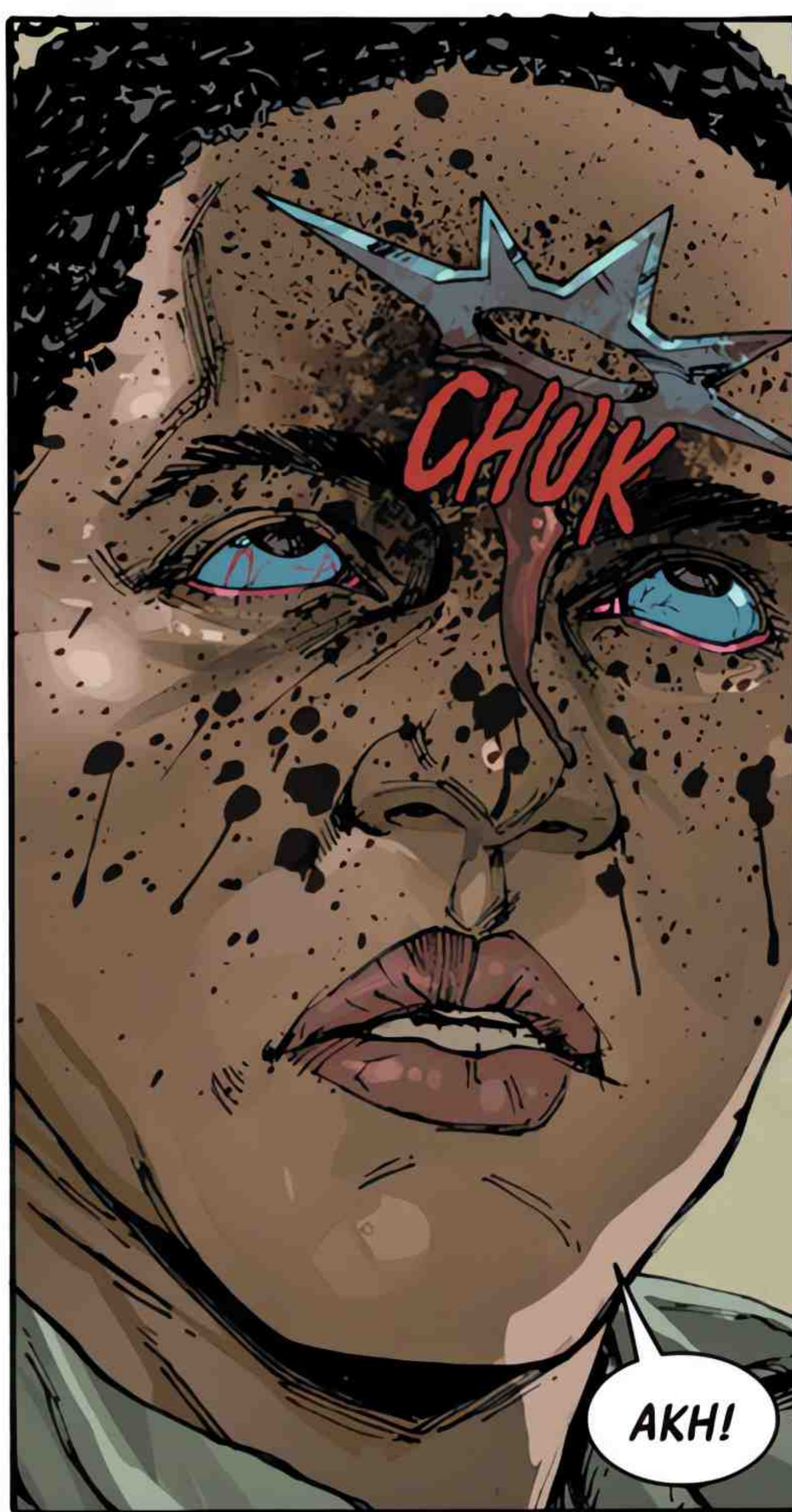
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF--

YOU ONLY **THINK** YOU ARE NOT AFRAID...

...BUT WE HAVE MANY **CREATIVE** WAYS OF INSTILLING FEAR.









HEH...DID YOU
MAKE THAT LITTLE
OUTFIT YOURSELF?

NO MATTER...
YOU WILL NOT
SUCCEED.

DON'T BE
SO SURE.



FIRST, YOU
PILFER OUR CULTURE,
THEN YOU COME HERE
TO TRY TO
ASSASSINATE
ME?

YOUR
RELENTLESS BATTLE
AGAINST MY COUNTRY
KNOWS NO BOUNDS,
WOMAN.



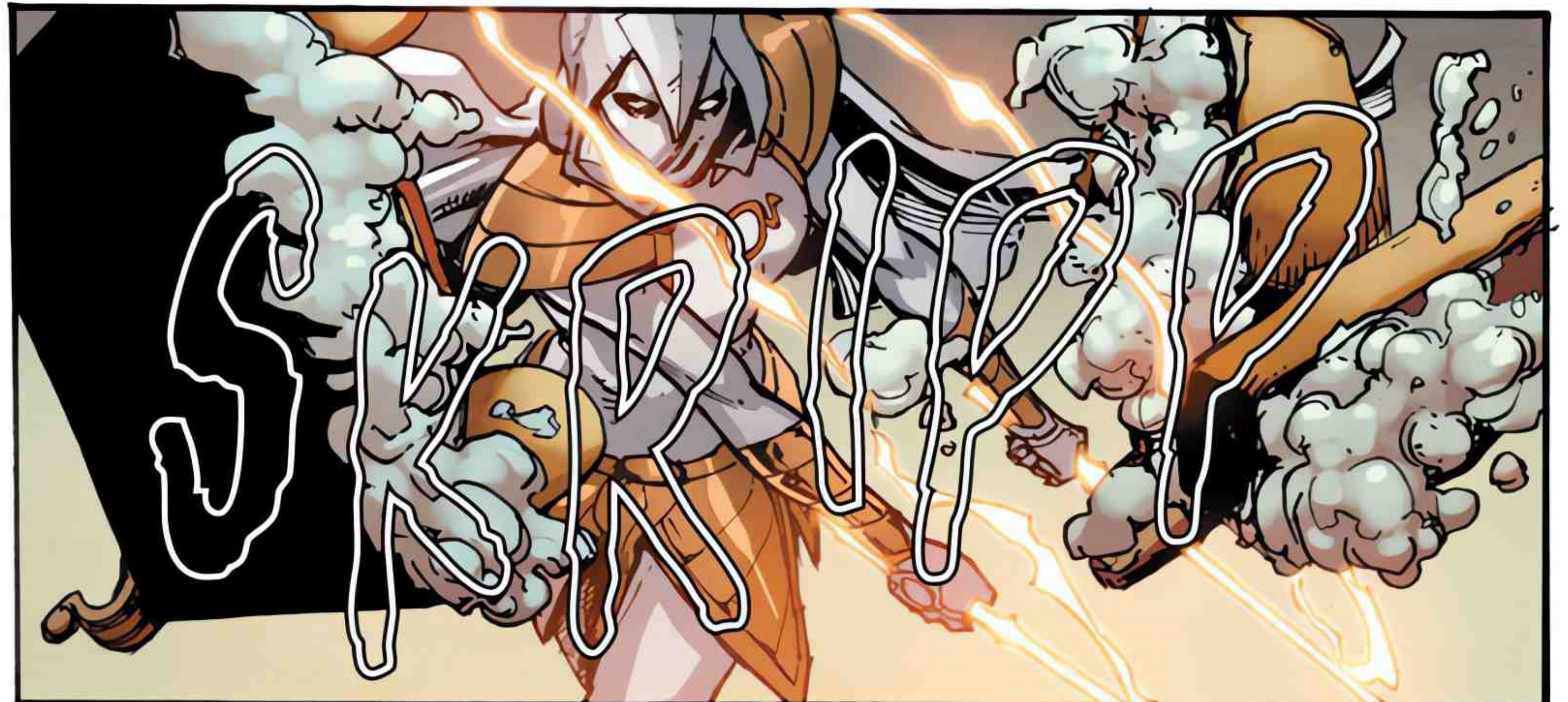
I HAVE NO
ISSUE WITH YOUR
COUNTRY--JUST
YOU.

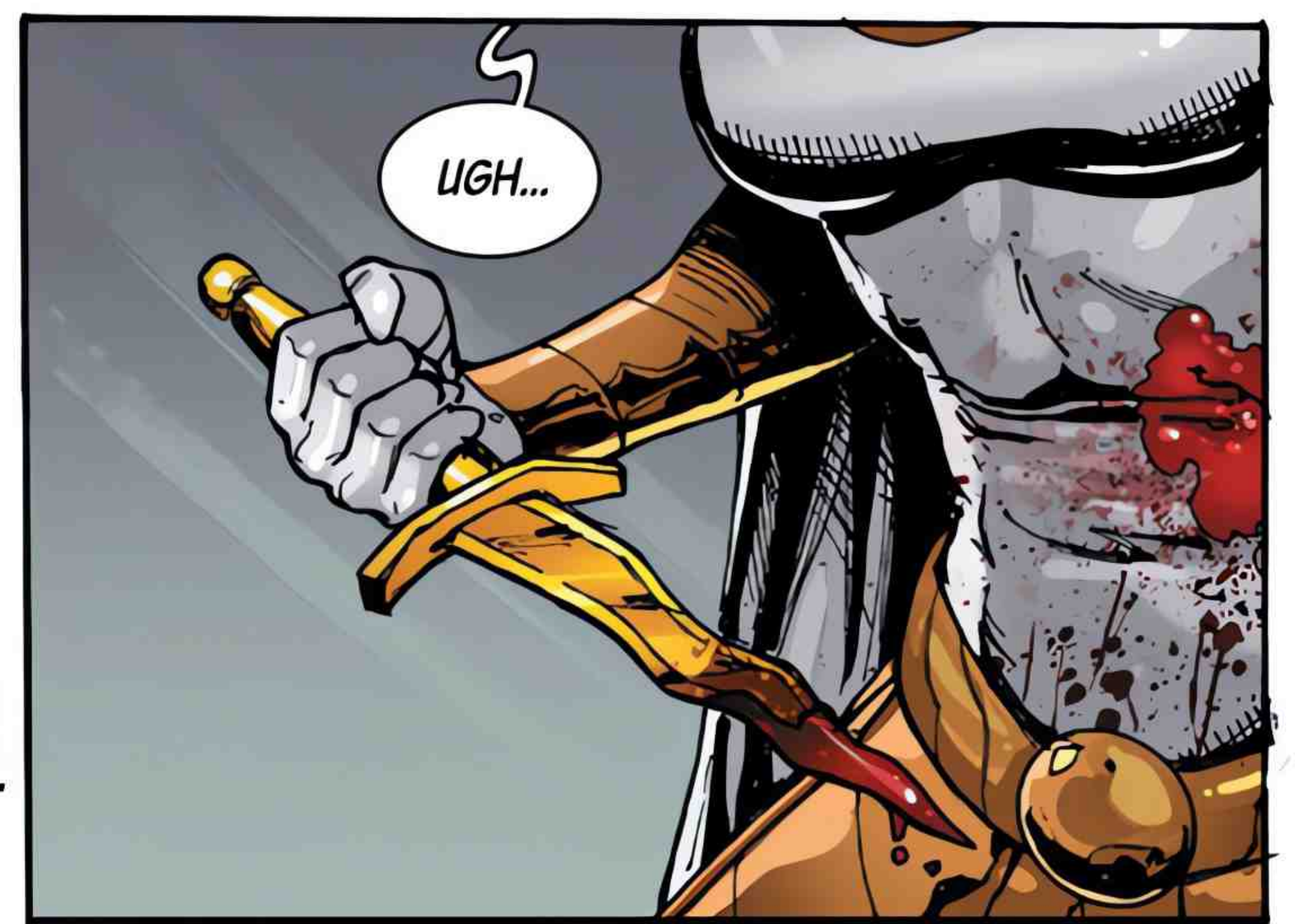


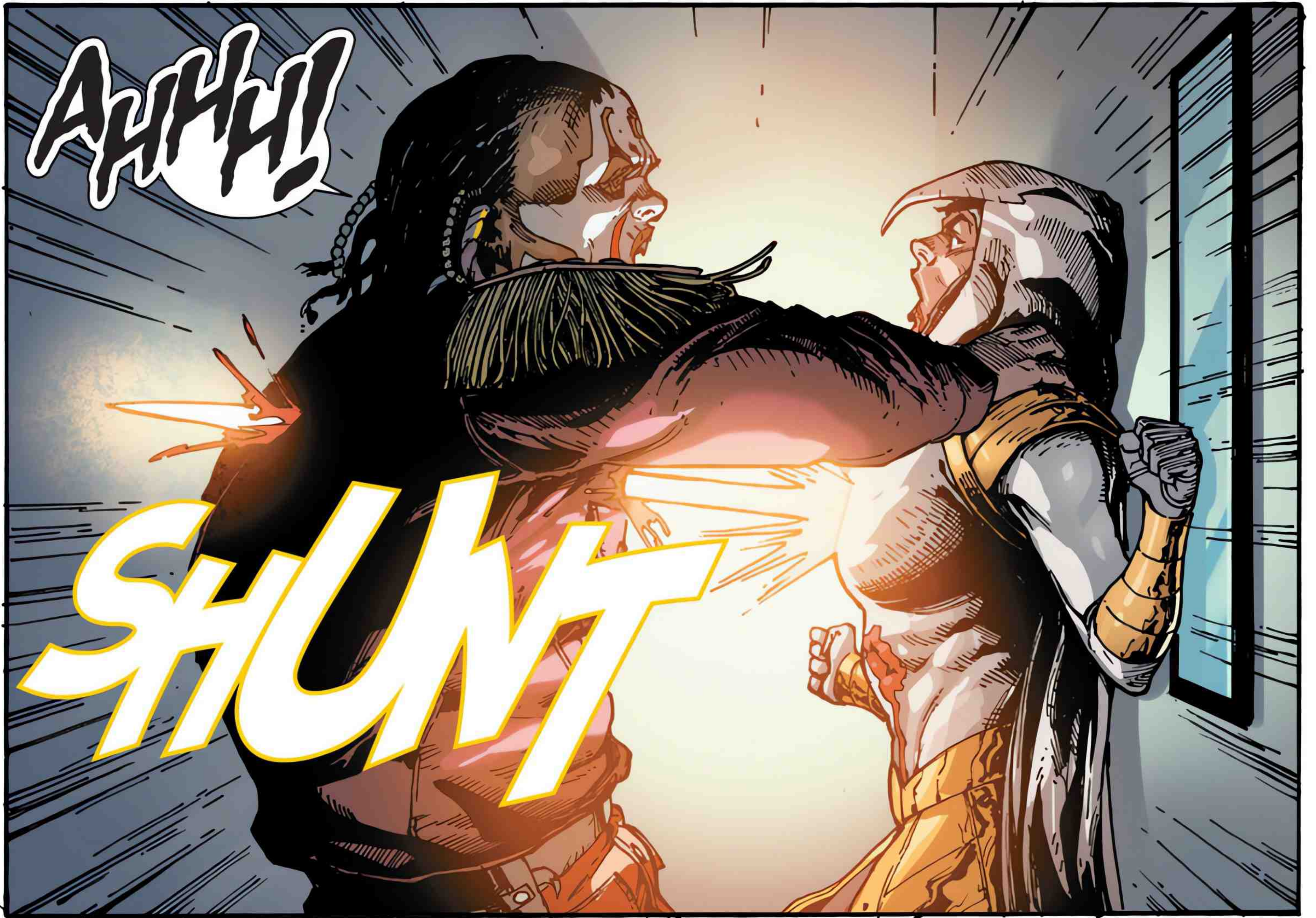
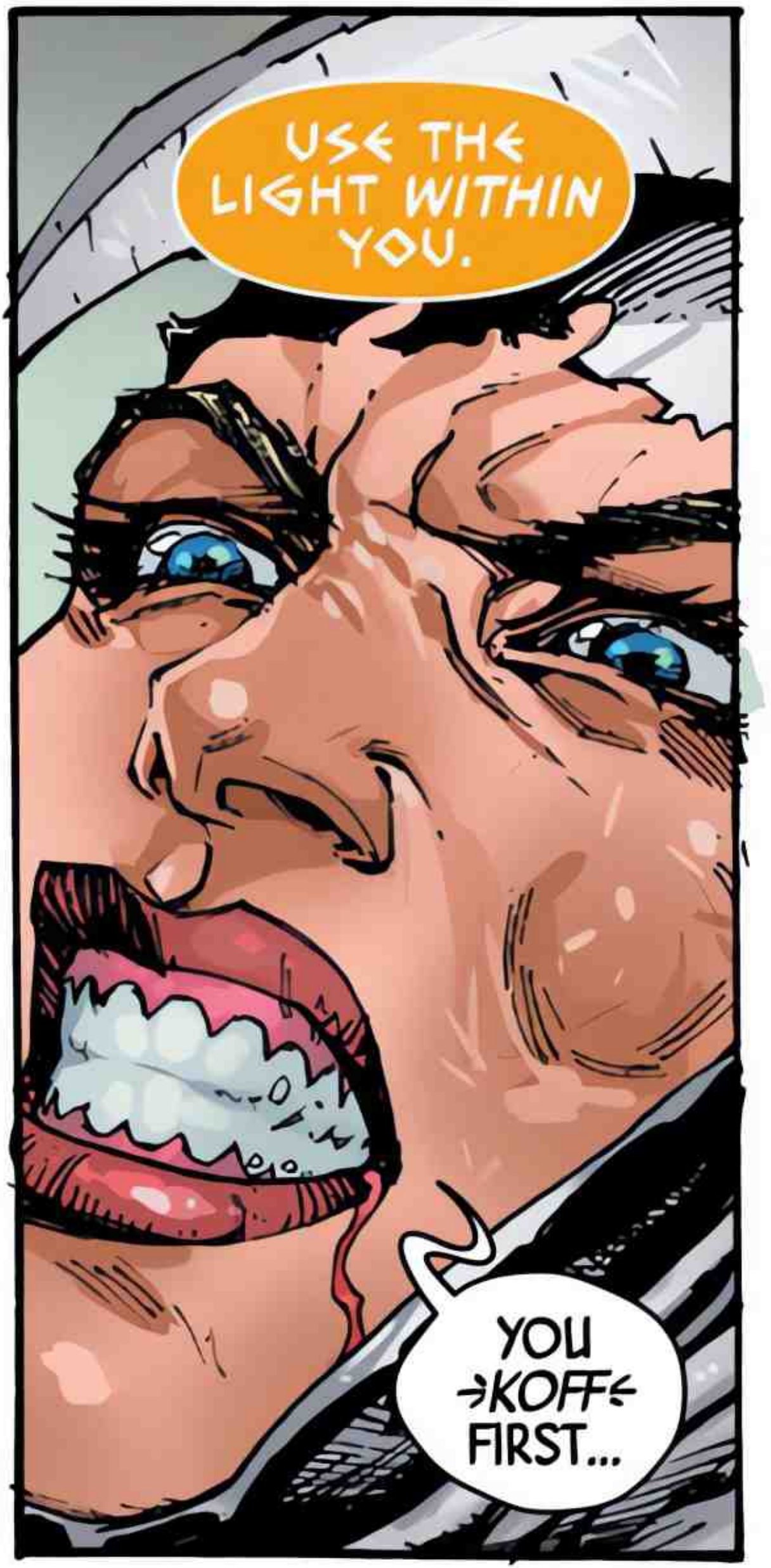
AND IT'S
TIME I **FIXED**
THAT PROBLEM...

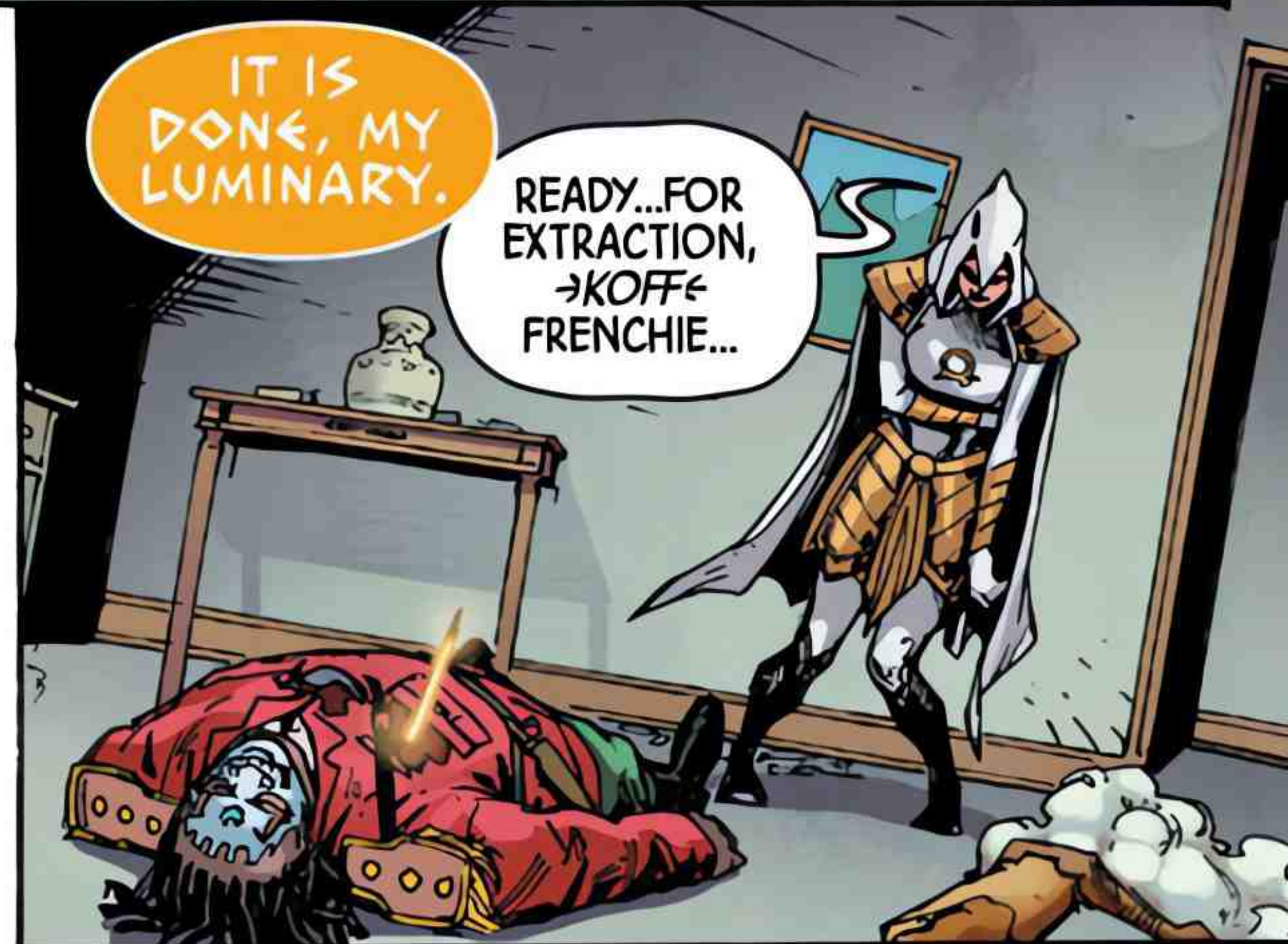


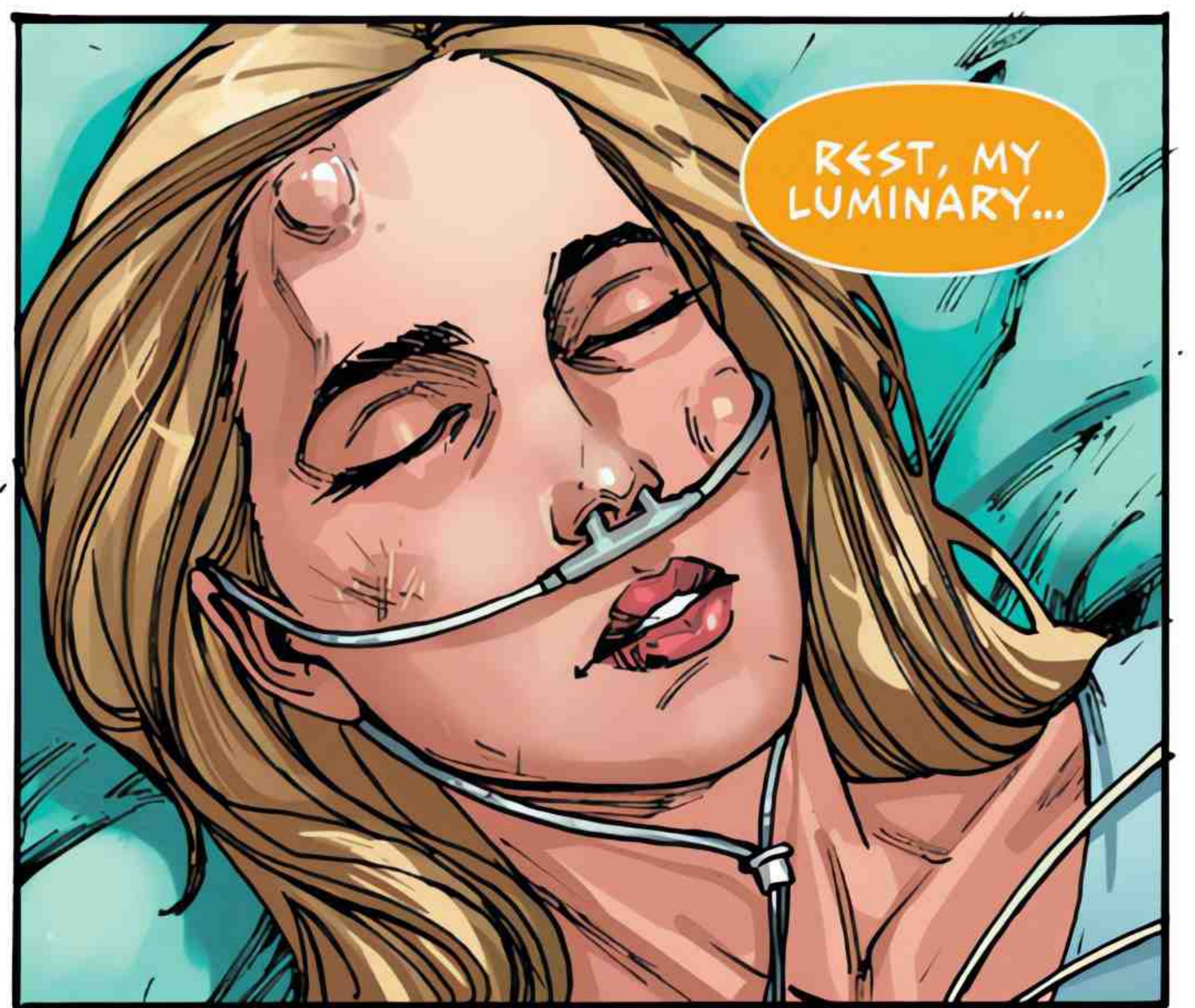
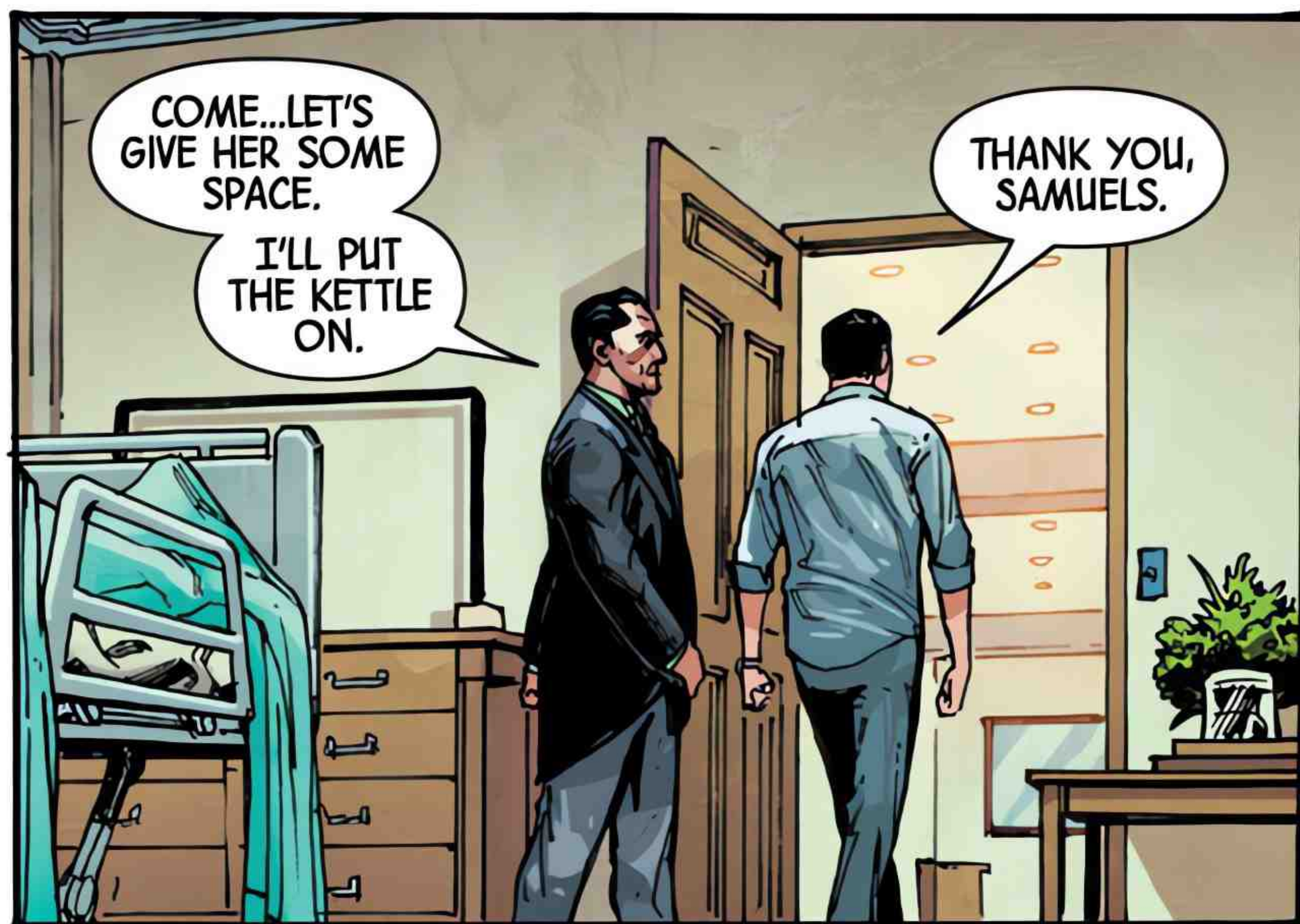
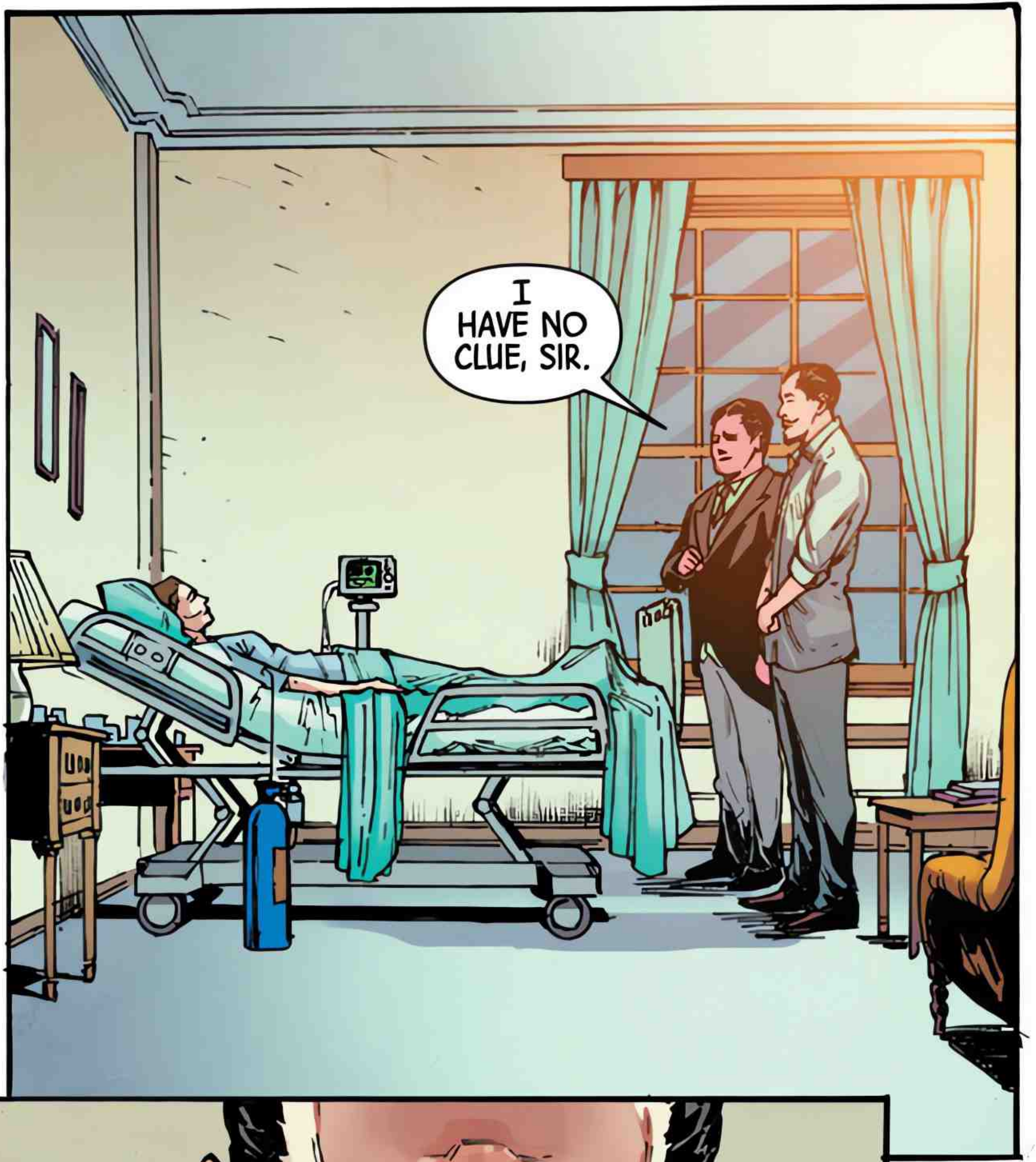
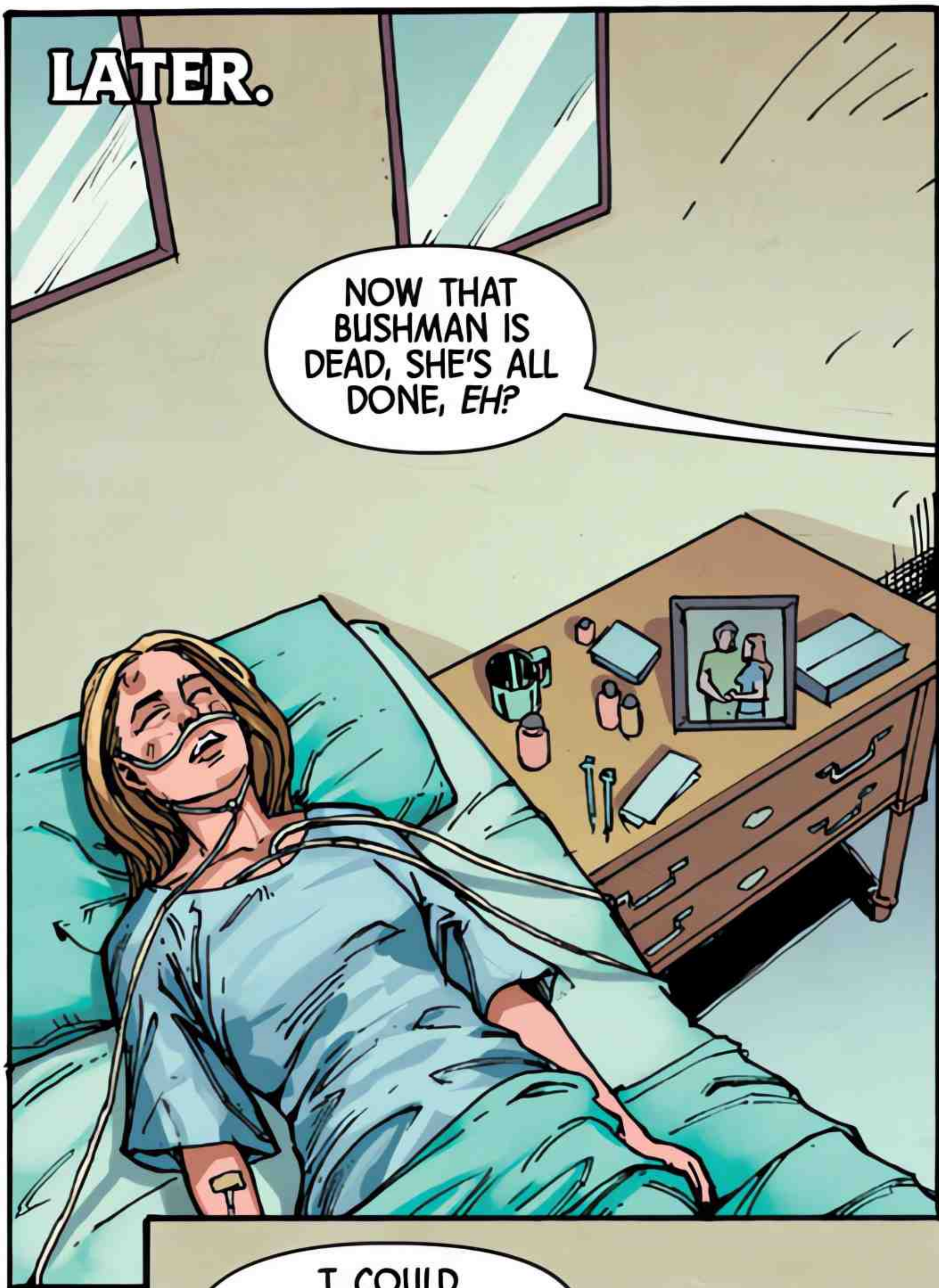
...FOR
GOOD.











WHERE...
AM I?

HEY
THERE,
KID.

IT CAN'T
BE...

MARC?
MARC, IS
IT REALLY
YOU?

IT'S
ME.

I'VE
MISSED YOU,
LOVER.

MARC!

WHAT
THE--?

MARC...I'M
STUCK. I CAN'T
MOVE!

PLEASE...
HELP ME!

YOU DON'T
NEED *MY* HELP,
MARLENE.

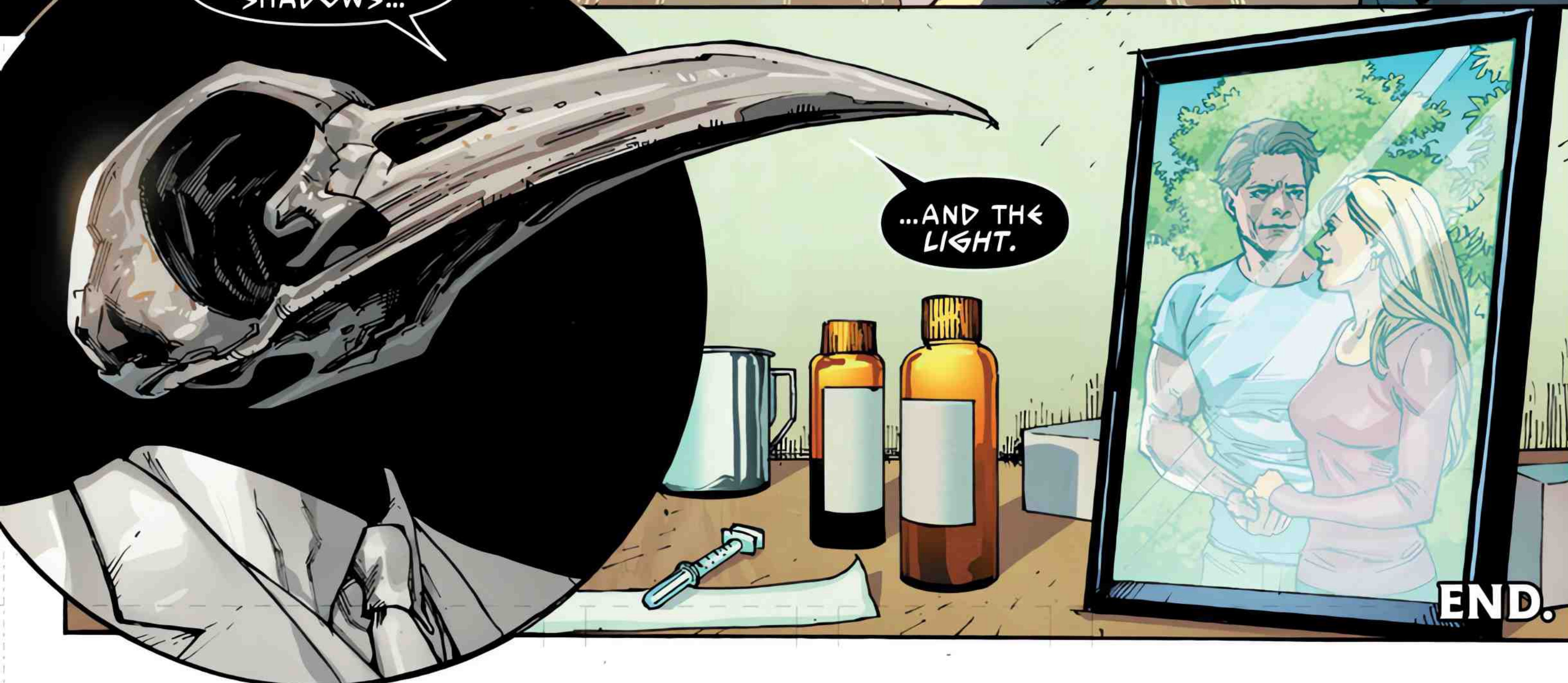
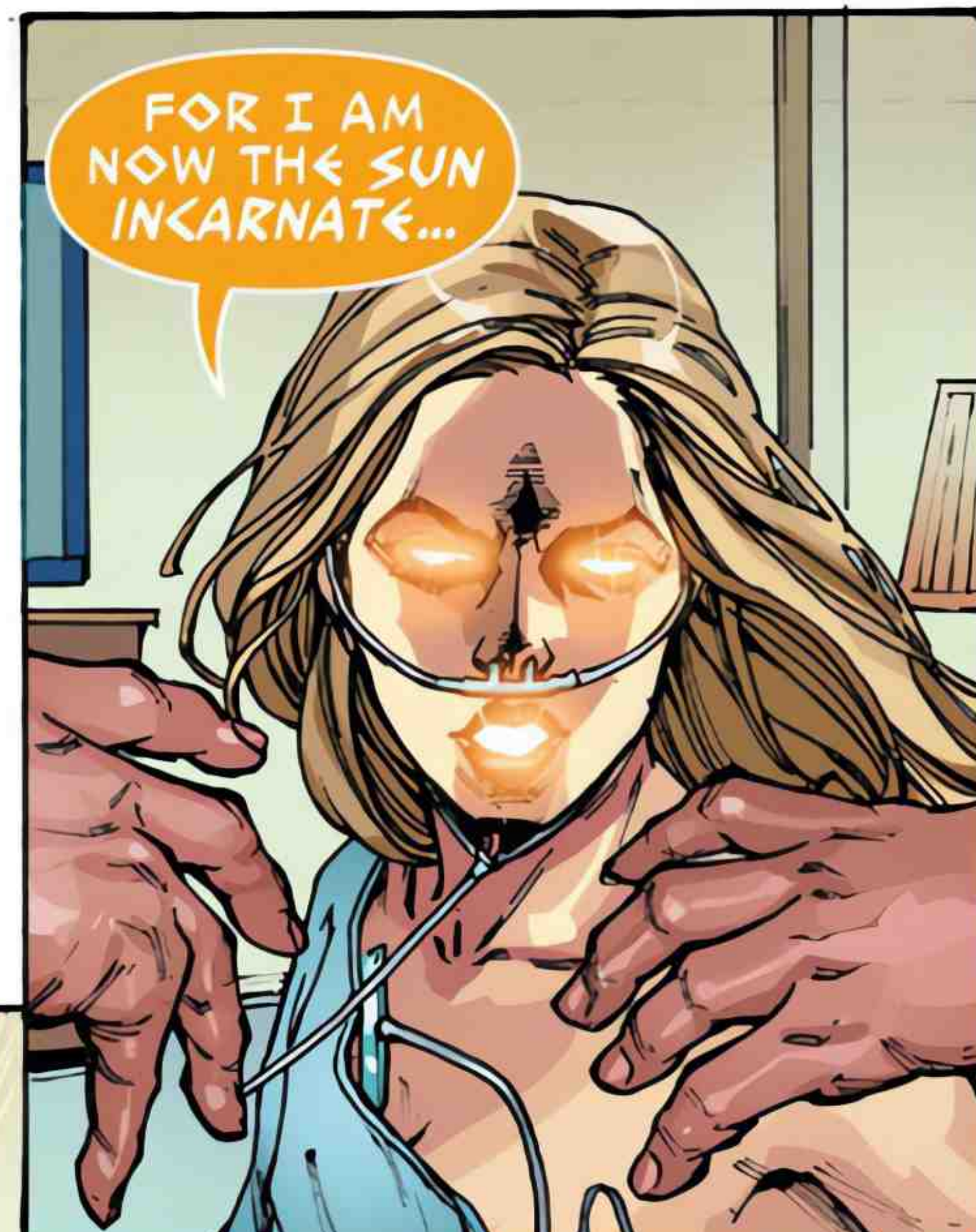
YOU'RE
ALMOST
THERE.

NO, NO,
I *CAN'T* LOSE
YOU AGAIN.

YOU'RE NOT
GONNA LOSE
ME...

I'LL
ALWAYS
BE HERE...

...JUST
TAKE MY
HAND...



NEXT

WHAT IF...? DARK CARNAGE



ON SALE IN AUGUST!



**MARC SPECTOR:
MOON KNIGHT #3**
IF YOU WANT TO READ THE CLASSIC TALE
THAT INSPIRED THIS ISSUE!



MOON KNIGHT #27
AND CHECK OUT MOON KNIGHT IN HIS
CURRENT ONGOING SERIES...



**MOON KNIGHT:
CITY OF THE DEAD #2**
...AND IN THIS SPECIAL LIMITED SERIES!